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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of SB434**

February 9, 2022

Chair Warren and Committee Members:

Our associations requested this bill to address an issue with License Plate Reader data in Kansas. It was prompted by the Kansas Department of Transportation bringing the issue to the attention of several local law enforcement agencies. The issue has resulted in the Kansas Department of Transportation suspending allowing any license plate reader systems to be installed on state or federal highways.

If enacted, this bill will protect the citizens of Kansas by assuring the data recorded in these systems will remain closed to open records requests. The bill also contains a provision to direct any open records requests to the agency leasing, owning, or operating the devices. These agencies are the owners of the data and responsible for the security and authorized use of the data.

These systems have proven to be vital tools in solving violent crimes and recovering stolen vehicles and other property. Criminals are using modern technology to victimize our citizens. It is critical that our law enforcement agencies can also use modern technology to protect our citizens from crime. Our agencies utilizing license plate reader systems have significant information on the success of these systems in solving serious crimes.

Please note the provisions of this bill only protects the distribution of the data and the location of the systems. The location information should remain protected to avoid location information being used by criminals to avert the detection of their crimes. The bill does not close records dealing with the costs, purchasing processes, or other related information the public should have access to.

We encourage you to pass this bill favorably.

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