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Senator Kellie Warren
Senate Judiciary Chairperson
Kansas State Capitol
Room 419-E
300 W. 10th
Topeka, Ks 66612
Kellie.Warren@senate.ks.gov

Re: Proponent Testimony for Senate Bill 419

Dear Senator,

I first would like to take this opportunity to thank you for introducing Senate Bill 419 in the Senate Judiciary Committee and ask you to schedule a hearing at the earliest opportunity. At that hearing, I would ask that this written proponent testimony be included for consideration of the Committee.

My agency stands alongside the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) in support of this bill.

The bill amends K.S.A. 74-5602(g) by including the Special Agents of the Enforcement, Apprehension and Investigations (EAI) division of KDOC alongside the lengthy list of other police officer or law enforcement officers listed in this statute. This is necessary so that those KDOC employees may attend the law enforcement training center, or any training school certified pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5604a, and training courses provided by the same. The bill also allows the Secretary of Corrections to designate, with the consent of the Director of Police Training at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC), an employee who is not a Special Agent to attend these trainings.

This is an important law enforcement officer safety, and public safety bill. EAI staff are responsible for the safe apprehension of absconders from parole supervision in our communities and partner with local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies on fugitive task forces across Kansas. KDOC Agents also conduct criminal investigations alongside state and local law enforcement. Today, KDOC staff do not receive the same training in investigations, tactics, searches, and law as all other Kansas law enforcement officers. It is time for the Kansas Legislature to correct this past oversight.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Soptic".

Daniel Soptic, Sheriff
Wyandotte County