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Written Neutral Testimony on Senate Bill 305 Senate Committee on Transportation

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The Kansas Highway Patrol appreciates this opportunity to provide written neutral testimony regarding Senate Bill 305. The bill would allow law enforcement agencies to collect license plate data using automated license plate recognition systems (ALPRS), securely store and responsibly share that data, and would require law enforcement agencies that utilize automated license plate recognition systems to adopt and maintain written policy regarding their use. The bill prohibits using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain license plate data under unlawful circumstances, and the bill also exempts captured license plate data from the Kansas Open Records Act.

The Kansas Highway Patrol views ALPRS as a helpful tool in our mission to protect the citizens of Kansas. Motor vehicles are often involved in the commission of crimes. Automated license plate recognition systems allow our officers to quickly and effectively search for criminals traveling on our highways. These systems have not only increased the number of significant arrests made by our agency, but they also have allowed our officers to spend less time searching for specific vehicles and more time focusing on other traffic safety issues.

Senate Bill 305 ensures good governance by requiring that the data collected during the operation of ALPRS is stored immediately and is used only for law enforcement purposes, by regulating automated license plate recognition systems when supported by an outside party, and by mandating law enforcement agencies produce detailed policy concerning the use of ALPRS. The Kansas Highway Patrol believes that the conditions set out in the bill will both safeguard confidential license plate data and enable our agency to continue utilizing ALPRS while providing service, courtesy, and protection to all Kansans.

We sincerely thank members of the Committee for their consideration of our testimony.

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