



**Kansas Association of  
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**Testimony to the House Federal and State Affairs Committee  
In Support of HB2632  
February 6, 2024**

Chairman Carpenter and Committee Members:

Our associations support HB3632. We requested this bill in support of the families of our fallen officers. The amendment adds one voting member to the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Advisory Committee.

We want to be clear our desire to make this change is not driven by any concern for the existing committee. If you look at the bill on page 1, lines 10-19 and 22-29, you will see the list of current members of the Law Enforcement Memorial Committee. The Committee was created in 1989 and has done a phenomenal job of overseeing the maintenance and expansion of the memorial, along with organizing the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service each year. But as you review the list of membership positions you will note there are representatives from 7 law enforcement organizations, the Attorney General, the Department of Corrections, and the State Historical Society. What you will not see, is a representative of the families of the fallen officers. While the existing committee has done well in remembering the family members, we believe it is time to add a direct voice of the families to the voting membership of the committee.

The Kansas-COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors) organization is a subset of the national Concerns of Police Survivors organization. The organization membership consists of fallen officers' family members. . .spouses, significant others, children, parents, brothers and sisters of fallen officers. Their mission is to support all family members. I have had the privilege of getting to know many of the members of that organization and have attended several of their meetings. They are an active and vibrant group focusing on the family members of the fallen. They provide resources to assure family members can go to the National Memorial Service when their loved one's names are added to the memorial in Washington, D.C. They provide escorts to those families to assist them in navigating the week-long events, including various programming specifically for the children, for the spouses, and for other family members as the adjust to the loss of their loved one.

A representative of the KS-COPS as a voting member will be a vital addition to the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Committee by adding the direct voice of the family members of those whose names are on the memorial.

We encourage you to move this bill forward favorably for passage.

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