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Testimony to the
House Committee on Transportation
House Bill 2346
Scott Kirkpatrick, President, Kansas City, Kansas Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #4
Testifying in Support
February 14, 2022

Chairperson Francis and Members of the Committee:

My name is Scott Kirkpatrick and I have been a police officer in Kansas City, Kansas, and Bonner Springs for over a combined 22 years. I am a member of the Fraternal Order of Police and serve as a local lodge President. I testify today on behalf of the more than 4,200 law enforcement officers who are members of the Fraternal Order of Police in the State of Kansas.

HB 2346 creates a Back the Blue distinctive license plate in the State of Kansas. As you are aware, the current climate throughout the country is less than favorable for law enforcement. This is resulting in fewer persons applying for law enforcement jobs and resulting in hundreds of officers leaving the profession early due to feeling as if they are unappreciated. Allowing the citizens of Kansas who support law enforcement to purchase and display the Back the Blue license plate will serve to build the morale of Kansas law enforcement when they see them displayed on vehicles traveling our roadways.

This piece of legislation creates a special fee to be paid by the applicant wanting the Back the Blue license plate. This fee is designated to be placed in the local law enforcement training fund by the treasurer. While this would not create a substantial increase in the local law enforcement training fund, it is an increase, nonetheless. Many agencies throughout Kansas struggle to train their officers within their budget constraints. An increase, no matter the size, which enhances their ability to provide more training to their officers would be welcomed.

I truly believe that the overwhelming majority of Kansans support their law enforcement officers. They deserve the opportunity to display that support through a distinctive license plate just like those individuals who choose to support educational institutions, fellow emergency responders, and other organizations currently.

I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time, thank you for allowing my testimony.

