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Senator Mike Petersen, Chair
Joint Committee on Kansas Security
Kansas Statehouse, Room 345-S, 300 SW 10th Ave
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Petersen:

The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) respectfully submits the following response to inquiries received during the agency's presentation on October 8, 2024:

1. Of the speeding citations issued by KHP, how many occurred in a school zone? How many citations were issued for failing to stop for a school bus? (Representative Weigel)

Response: There were 39 speeding citations issued in school zones in 2023 and 34 issued in 2024, as of October 8, 2024. There were 7 citations issued for failing to stop for a school bus in 2023 and 4 issued in 2024, as of October 8, 2024.

2. Are legislators eligible for KHP protective services? (Senator Peck)

Response: Pursuant to KSA 74-2105, the Superintendent may designate members of the KHP to provide security details for public officials. According to KSA 21-5111, a public officer includes executive or administrative officers of state, members of the Legislature, and Judicial officers. Legislators are afforded protection by KHP while in the Kansas Statehouse, which includes addressing threats arising from persons, phones, social media, or mail. Threats that occur away from the Statehouse are traditionally handled by local law enforcement, who then inform KHP of the situation.

KHP stands ready to ensure legislators can do their job in a safe manner. Protective services for public officials can be requested of KHP for a limited period when warranted. Prolonged or enduring protective services for public officials would require additional resources.

3. Is there data addressing causes for an increase in excessive speeding? (Senator Peck)

Response: While many factors may contribute to an increase in excessive speeding, the COVID-19 pandemic appears to have had the most significant influence on driver behavior according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. National data shows that not only did speeding in excess of 20 MPH or more over the limit increase after the public health emergency declaration, but the prevalence of other risky behaviors (failing to wear safety belts, driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs, etc.) increased as well.

https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.gov/files/2021-10/Traffic-Safety-During-COVID-19_Jan-June2021-102621-v3-tag.pdf

The agency will address other inquiries in a subsequent communication.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information and the Committee's continued support of KHP.

Murl Riedel
Executive Officer
Kansas Highway Patrol