



Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee In Support of HB2632

March 7, 2024

Chair Warren and Committee Members:

Thank you for your consideration of HB2632. This amendment adds a Kansas Concerns of Police Survivors (Kansas C.O.P.S.) member to the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Advisory Committee as a voting member. Kansas C.O.P.S. is a not-for-profit organization, chartered in 2001 by surviving family members of fallen Law Enforcement officers. Our chapter serves all 105 counties of Kansas, and is one of 55 chapters of the 4-Star Charity Navigator National C.O.P.S. organization. Our mission is to help rebuild the shattered lives of family members and coworkers affected by a law enforcement Line of Duty Death. We provide lifelong peer support and friendship to our survivors by offering ongoing emotional support, survivor events, help with understanding the judicial process, and continued outreach as the initial wave of community and department attention and support wanes. We also provide financial assistance for current year survivors to travel to Washington, DC for National Police Week, as well as travel assistance to our free National C.O.P.S. Hands-On Programs. Training of state law enforcement agencies in the appropriate handling of line-of-duty death procedures is also a priority for us, as the actions of an agency immediately following a LODD are critical to the family as they begin their grief journey, as well as important to the well-being and healing of their department.

Kansas C.O.P.S. has appreciated being invited as a guest to the Law Enforcement Memorial Advisory committee meetings the last several years. The Kansas Law Enforcement Memorial is a very special place to our survivors! We feel the committee has honored our fallen officers extremely well with their dedication to the maintenance and expansion of the memorial. In addition, the Law Enforcement Memorial Service each year is beautiful and healing. We are excited about the proposed amendment in HB2632, as this would provide a direct voice to the committee from the unique perspective of the survivors of the fallen officers being honored on the memorial. We feel we can be helpful in furthering the impact and survivor awareness of the memorial, and helpful with its growth as may be needed in the future.

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

With appreciation and warmest regards,

Dana Evans, Treasurer

Representing the

Kansas C.O.P.S. Chapter Board