

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2632 Senate Committee on Judiciary

Prepared by
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The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2632, and we respectfully request the Committee consider our agency's concurrence.

House Bill 2632 would expand the size of the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Advisory Committee from 10 to 11 members with the addition of a representative from the Kansas chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.). The Advisory Committee currently consists of members who represent a wide range of law enforcement entities in Kansas, including the Attorney General, the director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas Secretary of Corrections, representatives of several law enforcement officer associations, and the Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol. These individuals gather routinely to oversee all matters concerning the Memorial by making recommendations to the Governor and Legislature, organizing commemorative services, and soliciting grants and contributions to the Law Enforcement Memorial Fund.

The Kansas Law Enforcement Memorial is located on the northeastern corner of the Capitol grounds and consists of granite slabs in the formation of a ring upon which the names of fallen Kansas law enforcement officers are engraved. The Memorial honors law enforcement officers who, by virtue of their oath to uphold the law and protect the citizens of Kansas, gave their lives in service to the people of this state.

Concerns of Police Survivors is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization funded by grants and donations. Organized in 1984, C.O.P.S. now comprises a national network of over 75,000 survivors of law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty. C.O.P.S. provides resources to help the families of fallen police rebuild their shattered lives through outreach and programs, including scholarships, peer-support, retreats, conferences, and counseling reimbursement. The Advisory Committee has long valued the input of C.O.P.S. members during its meetings, but we believe it is more than appropriate to officially recognize the role and significance of C.O.P.S. by allowing the appointment of a representative of their organization to the Advisory Committee. This appointment, like the appointment of representatives from the law enforcement associations, would be made by the Governor.

The KHP supports the expansion of the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Advisory Committee as established in House Bill 2632. We sincerely thank the members of this Committee for their consideration of our testimony, and we urge your support of this bill.