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**Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
In Support of HB2329
February 14, 2023**

Chairman Owens and Committee Members,

The KSA, KACP and KPOA is providing proponent testimony on HB 2329.

The associations would ask the committee members to pass this bill out of committee as written.

On page 4 line 37 the change is striking the word (carried) and adding the word (possessed) in reference to possessing a firearm to commit a drug felony. The wording does matter, carried is interpreted that an individual carried the firearm on their person. The word possessed means carried on their person during a drug transaction, possessed it in a vehicle during a drug transaction or possessed it in a home during a drug transaction. This change also cleans up the confusing existing language with both possessing and using in the same sentence.

Another proposed change is on page 4 line 41 through 42. The change would be: (A) Except as provided in subsection (g) (1) (B), an additional 36 months of imprisonment. The current statute is a 6-month imprisonment.

Starting on page 4 line 43 thru page 5, line 1 states: (B) if the trier of fact makes a finding that the firearm was discharged, an additional 60 months of imprisonment. The current statute is an 18-month imprisonment.

In the State of Kansas, we are experiencing more violent crimes related to the sale of marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and now fentanyl. A large majority of our firearm crime is related to drug sales, purchasing of drugs or conducting robberies to take the drugs or money associated with the sale of drugs. We need stiffer penalties imposed to help combat drug sales and the violence associated with these crimes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff Easter
KSA Legislative Chair