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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kansas House of Representatives
House Committee on Judiciary
300 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

February 13, 2023

Subject: HB 2380

Greetings, I hope this correspondence finds members of the House Committee on Judiciary in good health and hoping towards a bright future for the year 2023. I write this correspondence in efforts to detail concerns I have with HB 2380 and the limitations of passing it would have on law enforcement agencies across the state of Kansas.

We are all aware that the pandemic of fentanyl overdose is impacting every community in America and Kansas communities are not immune from this either. It is imperative that law enforcement agencies across Kansas utilize interdiction efforts to curtail the flow of not only illegal dangerous narcotics, but human trafficking as well. Funds acquired from the civil forfeiture allow agencies to aid their efforts towards interdiction efforts with the aid of funding equipment and training. Recently our agency was able to launch a very effective License Plate Reader (LPR) system that will aid in real time notification of nefarious efforts entering our community. Civil asset forfeiture funds allow us to use acquired funds for the betterment of a community and having the funds absorbed into the state's general fund would impact our ability to use the funds for assistance in the communities we are sworn to protect. Myself like many of my LE partners ensure that portions of funds acquired are also provided to non-for-profit organizations in their efforts to aid our communities. This will prevent us from having an immediate direct impact on our communities.

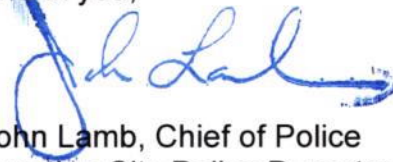
The Junction City Police Department personnel have spent years establishing excellent working relationships with our federal partners (HSI, DEA, etc.) and when an investigation is established that extends beyond the geographical border of Kansas it is extremely important that our federal partners are there to assist and continue the investigation. Therefore, having a greater impact on the transportation of illegal contraband through our country. For this to occur, many times the investigation must be adopted by federal agencies better equipped with the resources to tackle the challenges

we encounter. With us it is not about who gets the credit but are we working together towards a common goal.

The past changes that have been made to Civil Asset Forfeiture program allow for accurate reporting of accountability, spending, and transparency ensuring that LE agencies are not abusing the acquiring of funds through civil asset forfeiture. In my opinion these oversight measures already in place are working and meet the expectations of the architects of the revisions.

In closing, these are just a few examples of how the passing of HB2380 would impact law enforcement agencies across Kansas and hamper their abilities to have a more direct positive impact upon their communities. I can make myself available for further discussion if needed. Stay safe and God bless.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Lamb". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "L".

John Lamb, Chief of Police
Junction City Police Department