



Kansas Sheriffs' Association

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Testimony to Committee on Federal and State Affairs Opponent Testimony to SB 373

Chairman Thompson and Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriff's Association has been in existence since 1957 and has over 1800 members. Most KSA membership costs are paid for by Sheriff's Offices across Kansas. The KSA focuses on providing members support on legislation that assists law enforcement, scholarships for students and education and training for Sheriff Offices. KSA also provides members with benefits including insurance.

To assist the KSA on legislative issues we employ a lobbyist, and the cost is split between the three associations, Kansas Sheriff Association, Kansas Chiefs of Police Association and Kansas Peace Officers Association. This lobbyist interacts with legislators daily when in session and sits on many committees in the summer months to give a law enforcement perspective when asked. Our lobbyist is essential in everything that we do in helping legislation being passed that is good for Kansans and law enforcement.

The reason the associations hire a lobbyist is to have that voice and interaction with legislators. Individual Sheriff's, Chief's and KPOA members do not have the time to spend every day in the capital going to committee meetings, meeting with legislators, or testifying on bills. The relationship that is created by our lobbyist, who is a former Chief of Police, is invaluable and is used by legislators daily.

Most of the funding from membership dues provides quality training to Sheriff's Office across Kansas. We also provide several scholarships for college students yearly from membership dues. A very small percentage of membership dues are paid to the lobbyist. However, one of the most important tasks of KSA is providing a voice for Kansas Sheriff's with Kansas legislators. By partnering with Kansas legislators, we help create good laws that protect fellow Kansans.

If this bill were to pass, the partnerships that have been formed since 1957 will come to pass and we don't think most legislators would like to see those relationships end.

KSA is opposed to this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sheriff Jeff Easter, Sedgwick County
KSA Legislative Chair