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## **KANSAS STATE LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE**

477 NORTH SENECA STREET, WICHITA, KANSAS 67203  
316-302-4982

Proponent Testimony to the  
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
House Bill No. 2052  
Amanda Wood, President  
Kansas State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police  
January 29, 2025

Chair Kessler and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to offer written only testimony in support of House Bill 2052. I am Amanda Wood, the President of the Kansas State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police, the largest fraternal police organization in Kansas with over 4,300 members.

The Kansas State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police strongly advocates for the passage of House Bill 2052, which would protect the rights of off-duty law enforcement officers by prohibiting building administrators, property managers or private security from imposing requirements that compel commissioned or retired officers to disclose personal identifying information, wear identifiers indicating their status as law enforcement or as being armed, or mandates against the carrying of a concealed handgun. This legislation upholds the safety, privacy, and autonomy of law enforcement professionals while respecting their responsibilities and rights.

Off-duty police officers are highly trained professionals capable of responding to emergencies, including active shooter scenarios or other critical incidents. Their ability to carry a concealed handgun ensures they are prepared to act swiftly to protect lives in situations where seconds matter.

Police officers take an oath to protect and serve, whether on or off duty. Allowing them to carry a concealed weapon ensures they can fulfill this duty even when they are not in uniform or officially working. Their presence enhances security and acts as a deterrent to criminal activity. Public spaces like sporting events, hospitals, and entertainment venues can be prime targets for criminal activity or terrorism. Off-duty officers carrying concealed weapons provide an immediate line of defense, potentially neutralizing threats before uniformed officers arrive. Law enforcement officers undergo extensive firearms training and are skilled in de-escalation and use-of-force tactics. Their proficiency with firearms and understanding of legal and ethical responsibilities make them uniquely qualified to carry concealed handguns in sensitive environments.

Many members of the Fraternal Order of Police have experienced inconsistent and burdensome restrictions at public venues. These restrictions commonly include being detained while a designated employee inspects their credentials, takes photographs, collects personal information, and records specific seating details at entertainment or sporting events. In some instances, off-duty officers have been instructed to return to their vehicles and leave their firearms unattended. This directive runs counter to the guidance routinely provided by law enforcement to the public, which advises against leaving firearms in vehicles due to the risk of theft. It is particularly concerning that such requests are made by private security personnel or venue management, who often lack the extensive training and experience in firearm handling that law enforcement officers possess.

Mandating personal disclosure and visible identification for off-duty officers at public venues undermines their safety, privacy, and effectiveness while creating unnecessary risks for themselves and their families. It is essential to respect their anonymity and trust their professionalism, allowing them to act as both protectors and private citizens.

In closing, the passage of House Bill 2052 is essential to ensure that off-duty law enforcement officers can carry out their sworn duty to protect and serve without unnecessary restrictions or undue risks. This legislation safeguards the rights, safety, and privacy of those who have dedicated their lives to public service. By eliminating arbitrary and inconsistent policies, House Bill 2052 empowers officers to respond effectively to emergencies, ensures their personal and family security, and reinforces public trust in their professionalism. This bill not only supports the mission of law enforcement but also strengthens the overall safety and well-being of our communities. We strongly urge its approval.

We strongly support the passage of House Bill 2052.

Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing my testimony.