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Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary  
Proponent Testimony Regarding  
HB 2426  
Bob Stuart, KBI Executive Officer  
January 13, 2026

Chairwoman Humphries and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) thanks the Committee for the opportunity to present proponent testimony regarding HB 2426. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), is responsible for maintaining critical state databases including criminal records, offender registries, and identification systems integrated with driver's licenses, This legislation ensures that gender markers on state-issued IDs reflect biological sex at birth, promoting data accuracy, system reliability, and public safety.

- **Accurate Identification:** By mandating accurate biological sex markers, the bill ensures driver's licenses align with verifiable records in KBI databases which facilitates rapid and reliable identification during investigations, warrant executions, or missing persons cases. Accurate identification records prevent errors that could compromise public safety or which could allow suspects to evade detection.
- **Search and Frisk Safety:** Consistent biological markers support standardized protocols in KBI and other law enforcement training and guidelines for pat-downs and searches. This helps minimize both procedural confusion and delays that could endanger officers or detainees when their relevant records are cross-referenced in real-time database queries.
- **Custody Handling:** The bill prevents mismatches between IDs and biological reality in KBI databases which will ensure proper separation by sex in arrest situations and custody facilities which will, in turn reduce risks of violence, assaults, or administrative errors that lead to civil liability and strain on resources.

- **Database Integrity:** As stewards of the Kansas Criminal Justice Information System (KCJIS) and its integrations with the FBI's NCIC, entry of the correct biological data maintains data consistency. Mismatched gender markers create discrepancies across criminal history records which potentially hinders queries, increases fraud potential, and allows exploitation by fugitives or identity thieves.
- **Legal Clarity:** Requiring alignment with biological definitions closes loopholes in state records, streamlining database management and compliance with laws on vital statistics, which reduces administrative burdens and enhances our ability to support law enforcement with accurate data.
- **Privacy in Single-Sex Spaces:** Uniform biological markers aid in resolving disputes reported to law enforcement authorities involving facilities like shelters or restrooms. HB 2426 will allow quick and accurate database verification to de-escalate situations and protect privacy without relying on subjective or altered records.
- **Emergency Response Accuracy:** In crises, KBI databases as well as on person identifying documents like a driver's license should provide first responders with reliable biological data for immediate care and treatment decisions. HB 2426 ensures IDs don't introduce misleading information which could compromise these decisions.

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