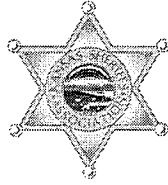




**Kansas Association of
Chiefs of Police**
PO Box 780603
Wichita, KS 67278
(316)733-7301



**Kansas Sheriffs
Association**
PO Box 1122
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(620)230-0864



**Kansas Peace Officers
Association**
PO Box 2592
Wichita, KS 67201
(316)722-8433

**Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
In Support of HB2534
February 9, 2012**

Chairperson Colloton and Committee Members,

One of the legislative priorities for our associations this year is to support bills enhancing the safety of our children. This is one of those bills. The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriffs Association, and Kansas Peace Officers Association support this bill. It is truly unfortunate that we should need to even consider such a bill. But we know it is necessary.

Over the past several years there has been more than one case in the national spotlight in which parents fail to report their missing child. Some of those cases have demonstrated how difficult these cases can be to solve. Especially when information is either concealed or false information is presented. It is sometimes weeks before a child's body is found, or perhaps never. Once a child's body is found much of the evidence can be lost due to the passage of time and exposure to the elements. In many of these cases states had no laws to require the reporting of the child's missing status or even their death to law enforcement. In those cases, some of these parent's have not been successfully prosecuted for any culpability for jeopardizing the child's welfare or in the worst cases the death of the child. Kansas children deserve better.

Kansas law enforcement officers who have to investigate these cases need your help by assuring we have the tools to bring these cases to successful conclusion and to hold those responsible accountable. We are the ones who struggle first hand with the facts of the case and the dead end leads generated by concealment and false information from the ones that are supposed to love and take care of these children. Help us help these children.

While we wish we could say this never happens in Kansas, sadly it does. This bill will create a law to hold those accountable who deny a child the opportunity to be found when missing, who deny or obstruct a child's right to have law enforcement investigate their disappearance or death, who deny a child who has died the decency of proper respect and burial. Kansas children deserve the protection this law will provide. Our hope is that this law will never be used beyond a tool of prevention. But in our hearts we know it will. Children deserve to know that in Kansas their life matters.

We respectfully request that you recommend this bill favorably for passage.

Ed Klumpp
E-mail: eklumpp@cox.net
Phone: (785) 235-5619
Cell: (785) 640-1102

House Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Committee
2012 Session
Date 2-9-12
Attachment # 5-1