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Testimony to the House Energy and Utilities Committee In Support of SB384 as Amended by the Senate Committee Amending the 911 Act

March 7, 2012

Chairman Holmes and Committee Members,

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police, Kansas Sheriffs Association, and Kansas Peace Officers Association are supportive of the amendments to the 911 Act passed last year which are proposed in SB384 as amended by the Senate committee. We have reviewed the amendments as presented and all appear to be reasonable changes which will positively support 911 services in Kansas.

We are especially supportive of the clarification and changes to the terms of the 911 Coordinating Council appointees. Those are the amendments found in section 2 of the bill, primarily on page 4. This is an area we were concerned about last year but it kind of got lost in the debates about the major issues of the bill. This change will help minimize the loss of continuity when new members are appointed. This is not only a good change but a critical enhancement to the Act passed last year.

The changes in Section 3, subsection (c) found on page 7 lines 32-40 of the bill are also sound changes. We believe this is a more appropriate way to distribute those funds described in this subsection. It is an important change in light of the fact the information to apply the method required in the Act passed last year is not available. The amendments to the bill made in the Senate committee are changes we supported. Those amendments address two major concerns pointed out in testimony to the Senate committee by our associations and others.

We urge the Committee to recommend SB 384 as amended by the Senate committee favorable for passage.

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