



# Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kirk D. Thompson  
*Director*

Derek Schmidt  
*Attorney General*

October 22, 2018

Senator Jeff Longbine  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St., Room 341-E  
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Interest of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to participate in the Deferred Retirement Option Program

Dear Senator Longbine,

With the Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments, and Benefits scheduled to discuss the Kansas Police & Firemen's Retirement System (KP&F) on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, I thought it appropriate to make you aware of our interest in participating in the Deferred Retirement Option Program, or "DROP."

As you may be aware, in 2015 the Legislature passed Senate Substitute for House Bill 2095 which created the DROP pilot program. Since its inception, participation in the pilot program has been limited to KP&F members at the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP). I plan to attend the meeting of the Joint Committee to hear Colonel Mark Bruce share how the KHP has utilized the pilot program.

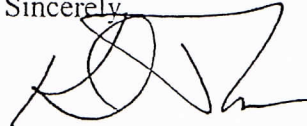
I have been in contact with Colonel Bruce and understand the KHP has an interest in extending the life of the DROP program, which is scheduled to sunset on January 1, 2019. We understand the program has been beneficial in assisting the KHP in retaining retirement eligible troopers.

As an agency, we too have been facing critical staffing shortages which have negatively impacted our ability to fulfill our important public safety mission over the last several years. To combat this, we have implemented a number of measures to assist us in our efforts to recruit and retain highly trained and qualified special agents. With a number of our most experienced Senior Special Agents at or nearing full retirement eligibility, we believe that inclusion of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) in the DROP program would further assist us in retaining some of our most skilled investigators who have been dedicated to the investigation of major violent crime in Kansas.

I have communicated our interest in participating in the DROP program to both Alan Conroy from KPERS and with Colonel Bruce. Given the Joint Committee's upcoming briefing on the DROP program, I wanted to make you situationally aware that we plan to initiate the development of legislation to support the KHP's request for re-authorization and expansion of the program to include the KBI.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank you for your continued support of the KBI and our vital public safety mission. We are grateful for the understanding shown in regard to our critical role in the criminal justice community as we work diligently to ensure the safety and security of Kansas citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk D. Thompson', written over a horizontal line.

Kirk D. Thompson  
Director

KT/kmw