

Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee

In Support of SB435

February 9, 2022

Chair Warren and Committee Members:

Among the various departments within Blue Valley School District is the Blue Valley Campus Police Department. All 11 members of this department are trained and certified to the standards required by the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Act, and all have served as city law enforcement officers prior to joining Blue Valley. Collectively, they have over 200 years of police experience.

The current general jurisdiction statute, KSA 22-2401a, does not extend jurisdiction to campus officers outside of the geographic boundaries of school district property (as well as the streets contiguous to those properties) even when a neighboring law enforcement agency requests their assistance.

The jurisdiction extended to campus officers by current statute is sufficient for most campus and student issues, however situations do and may arise in which our officers could provide valuable assistance to our partnering agencies.

For example, one of our officers drives a marked patrol car and serves as a liaison to our elementary schools. It is not unusual for him to come upon a traffic accident while moving through the City. Under the proposed bill, he could quickly call Overland Park dispatch and ask if they would like him to assist on scene until their officers arrive. Under the current jurisdiction statute, he could not provide law enforcement assistance, even if requested.

There are many examples in which our officers could be of assistance to our partner agencies ranging from assisting with traffic control in a high school homecoming parade to holding a secure perimeter after a severe weather event.

The chiefs-of-police in Johnson County have expressed their support for this bill which will help to create consistency in our ability to help one another when needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

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