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Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 419
Senate Committee on Judiciary

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Kansas Highway Patrol

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The Kansas Highway Patrol appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 419, and we respectfully request the Committee take into consideration our agency's recommendation. Senate Bill 419 allows Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) Special Agents of the Enforcement, Apprehension and Investigations (EAI) division to attend the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC), other training schools, and the courses provided by the same. The bill also provides flexibility by allowing the Secretary of Corrections to designate an employee who is not a Special Agent to attend these trainings with the consent of the Director of Police Training at the KLETC.

By permitting KDOC Special Agents and other staff to attend training currently received by law enforcement officers, public safety in Kansas will be improved. EAI personnel work to apprehend absconders from parole supervision, conduct criminal investigations, and participate in fugitive task forces alongside law enforcement agencies in our communities. These necessary activities are inherently dangerous, but high-quality training can help mitigate the risk to personal safety that KDOC staff experience. The training available at law enforcement schools may also expose Special Agents to tactics and strategies that will enhance their efficiency and effectiveness in the field.

The Kansas Highway Patrol supports Senate Bill 419 and the women and men of the Kansas Department of Corrections. This bill increases the safety of the citizens of Kansas and the safety of KDOC personnel. We sincerely thank the Committee for their consideration of our testimony.

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