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Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary  
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 189  
March 7, 2023  
Written Only Testimony

Chairperson Patton and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and training (CPOST) is responsible for regulating the law enforcement profession in Kansas. CPOST is committed to providing the citizens of Kansas with qualified, trained, ethical, competent, and professional peace officers. It is also dedicated to adopting and enforcing professional standards for peace officers to promote public safety and preserve public trust and confidence.

CPOST maintains a Central Registry of all Kansas law enforcement officers, the purpose of which is to serve as a resource for agencies who appoint or elect law enforcement officers to use when reviewing employment applications of those officers. See K.S.A. 74-5611a(a)(2). While the Central Registry is an important tool in combatting the wandering officer – an officer who jumps from agency to agency, leaving behind a trail of misconduct – it merely acts as a pointer system for hiring agencies. Hiring agencies must follow-up with an officer's current or former employer to gain insight into an officer's performance. However, many law enforcement applicants are deemed unsuitable candidates by an agency before ever being employed as an officer. Other previously employed officers leave employment before their misconduct is discovered or engage in problematic behavior while between jobs. Those applicants and officers are often persistent in their efforts in seeking new employment and submit a multitude of applications to law enforcement agencies simultaneously, resulting in duplicative work being conducted by hiring agencies with strained budgets and minimal staff.

If adopted, SB 189 would allow for hiring agencies to save valuable time and resources in conducting background checks, while ultimately retaining hiring autonomy. Information sharing between law enforcement agencies regarding law enforcement applicants is paramount in safeguarding the profession. SB 189 would serve as a valuable tool in that process. CPOST therefore supports the adoption of SB 189.

Respectfully submitted,  
Executive Director Doug Schroeder  
Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training