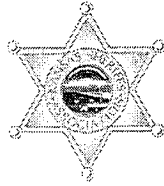




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**Testimony to the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee  
In Support of SB152  
March 20, 2013**

Chairman Olson and Committee Members,

Our associations support SB152. This bill will provide the surviving families of Kansas law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty to continue existing health insurance coverage with the premium paid by the employer through the COBRA period. This will give law enforcement the same coverage as firefighters currently have.

This coverage would be extended only to those who already have family health insurance coverage through their employer. It will not apply if the family coverage is through the spouses employer and it will not allow adding the coverage after the fact.

In the past 10 years (2003-2012), there have been 12 Kansas law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, by gunfire or accident. One worked for the state, 4 for a city, and 7 for a sheriff's office. All but one had children, all but two were married. Only one agency suffered more than one loss during the ten year period. We cannot determine how many of them had family health insurance through their employer.

The families of these fallen officers will have an immediate loss of income due to the death of the officer. They will be eligible for certain retirement benefits. However, in most cases without this bill they will have to start paying their family health insurance out of pocket. So they will have reduced income and added costs.

The payment of the health insurance premium during the COBRA period will provide a short period of time for the families to start the recovery from their loss, and to develop and prepare for new financial plans.

We respectfully request the committee recommend this bill favorably for passage.

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