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**Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
In Support of HB2581
February 13, 2018**

Chairman Jennings and Committee Members,

Our associations are in support of HB2581. Swatting is the act of intentionally creating a false request for emergency assistance reporting that a person is in immediate violent danger for the purposes of causing a high-risk police response to the victim's location. We have seen firsthand in Kansas the tragedy that can result. It is estimated there are 400 swatting incidents each year in the US.¹

Several years ago, our associations proposed the amendments that led to the current law on swatting. The amendments proposed in HB2581 create sentencing enhancements to cover these cases when injury or death results.

Swatting not only puts innocent lives at peril, it is costly to the responding agencies financially. It also places officers in a no-win situation.

We encourage you to move this bill forward favorably for passage.

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¹ While the FBI does not collect specific swatting data, this estimate was provided by the FBI in 2013 and has been widely reported. However, other media reports indicate the actual number may be much higher.
<https://www.theverge.com/2013/4/23/4253014/swatting-911-prank-wont-stop-hackers-celebrities>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/06/opinion/swatting-fbi.html>