



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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To: Chairman Jennings and Members of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

From: Kim T Parker, Prosecutor Coordinator: Kansas County and District Attorney's Association

Date: February 13th, 2018

Re: Proponent Testimony House Bill 2581

Good Morning Jennings and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of the passage of HB2581. I am addressing you on behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorney's Association and the many Kansas prosecutors they represent. Kansas prosecutors continue to be interested in modifications to the Kansas criminal code that address conduct that threatens public safety. HB2581 addresses conduct that is not otherwise adequately or specifically covered by other criminal statutes. The conduct this bill seeks to criminalize in Kansas is commonly referred to as "swatting" or a hoax request for emergency services when there is in fact no such emergency. Swatting puts law enforcement and the people being swatted in dangerous situations. Swatting by definition is done with the intention of provoking a massive police response and activation of SWAT teams. Typically, "swatting" can involve a bomb threat, suicide threat, or the "reporting" of an act of terrorism, hostage situation, barricaded gunman, or active shooter. While prank calls are usually funny and benign, these calls can cause chaos, danger, and even death. Bomb threats can be disruptive to commerce and education when called in to our workplaces and schools, and they can present an entire host of threats to innocent bystanders. Fake threats divert emergency resources from the real emergencies.

HB2581 increases penalties for giving false and misleading information to request emergency services depending on the serious risks and/or results of the conduct. When the identity or source of the request is concealed or disguised the penalty is a severity level 10 felony, when the request includes false information of violent criminal activity or threat to a person's life or safety is taking place, the penalty is a severity level 7 felony. When bodily harm results a severity level 6 felony, when great bodily harms results a severity level 4 and if death results a severity level 2.

In the interest of increased public safety, Kansas County and District Attorney's Association urge the passage of HB2581

Respectfully Submitted

Kim T Parker

Prosecutor Coordinator

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