



Kansas State Firefighters Association, Inc.

Organized August 13, 1887

Oral Proponent Testimony on HB 2531

Kevin Flory, President

February 12th, 2020

Good afternoon Chairman Proehl and other committee members. My name is Kevin Flory and I am the President of the Kansas State Firefighters Association. Our association represents the approximate 16,000 firefighters in Kansas, both career and volunteer.

Our association would like to express our support for HB 2531. Our organization was the sponsoring organization that originated the firefighter distinctive plate and provided the initial \$10,000 needed to begin manufacturing the item. However, at the time, an annual fee was never enacted.

In 2016, our membership authorized the executive board of the KSFFA to pursue adding an annual fee on these distinctive firefighter tags to help offset the rising costs of delivering and managing fire training throughout the state. The cost of the fee was determined by our membership at our annual conference in 2016 and was directed to not exceed fifteen dollars. We are now asking the Legislature for their approval to add our self-imposed annual fee of ten dollars to the tag. As an association, we are committed to providing for the safety and education of the Kansas firefighter. This tag fee is an avenue to allow us to continue to provide a high level of training to the firefighters of Kansas.

I thank you for taking the time to review this testimony and hope you support this bill to help us support our firefighters in the state with continued high quality training.