



Kansas Sheriffs' Association

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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Transparency and Ethics
Proponent to HB 2096
March 24, 2021

Chair Bowers and Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriff's Association submits testimony as a proponent of HB 2096. This bill contains the same provisions for corrections officers as 2020 SB 331. SB 331 passed the Senate last year 40-0. It was scheduled for a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee, but that hearing was cancelled with the COVID shutdown.

The language as written in section 1 subsection (a)(51) adds employees of the department of corrections, local correctional officer or local detention officer to the protection of home address information in certain public records venues.

Corrections personnel are not included in current law. Corrections personnel are at just as much risk as commissioned law enforcement officers for bodily harm and threats. Corrections personnel are around inmates for their entire shift not just the time it takes to work the call, arrest and book the individual.

Corrections are a very important piece of the Criminal Justice System and they should be afforded the same protections as other at-risk members of the system.

We ask for your consideration to recommend the bill favorably and consider placing it on the consent calendar.

The Kansas Sheriff's Association is a proponent of this bill as written. We thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Jeff Easter, Sedgwick County Sheriff
Legislative Committee Chair