

Good afternoon committee members.

I am here today in support of HB 2066, as a member of the Fire/EMS community and an agency administrator.

Agencies across Kansas are currently dealing with staffing issues and cost, House bill 2066 offers an avenue of support for those working the front line fires and EMS calls with our communities.

It is my belief that with this bill being an additional incentive we may be able to help increase staffing/volunteerism throughout Kansas.

Within our department specifically as example a simple structure fire takes an average of 4 hours and those staff members make \$10.00 per call. An average EMS call with longer transports due to hospitals closing is 2 ½ to 3 hours and those staff make \$25.00 per call.

A major incident like the recent Cottonwood complex fire in Reno/Harvey Counties with a multiday event and those staff were paid as if it were a single call.

This cost of this bill is minimal compared to agencies either having to move to complete full paid departments or in some cases agencies shutting down all together as they no longer have the staffing to support the needs and regulations.

I want to thank you for your time and consideration of House bill 2066 and the continuing support from all of our legislators for Kansas Public Safety.

Anderson Lowe