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February 7, 2012

**Testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee
In Opposition to SB343
Window Tinting for Vehicles Used by Private Investigators**

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police opposes SB343 which proposes to allow private investigators to apply dark tint to the windows of vehicles they use. You may recall law enforcement came to you last year on the issue of window tinting on law enforcement vehicles. This resulted in your committee limiting the expanded use of darker window tinting to only marked law enforcement vehicles. The rationale for those limits included the public complaining about vehicles with illegal window tint, not knowing the vehicle is a law enforcement vehicle. Concern was also voiced about law enforcement from other agencies not being able to distinguish which vehicles were law enforcement vehicles, especially from other agencies, and which are private vehicles in violation.

Window tinting on private investigator vehicles will produce those same issues. One has to wonder what kind of reaction will come from private investigators as they are stopped by law enforcement during surveillance operations. These stops will likely occur on a regular basis since there is no way all law enforcement officers will know what vehicles are being operated by a private investigator.

We do not question the convenience of the window tinting and the added concealment. However, if the only vehicles allowed to have this window tinting are private investigators then one has to wonder how effective it can be for concealment of surveillance operations. This is the reason we did not object last year to the limited exception for law enforcement vehicles the committee imposed on our original request.

If the committee does proceed with this bill, which we believe is ill advised, we respectfully request you include law enforcement vehicles in the exemption as well. Doing so will not add any further complications than adding the private investigators.

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