



Kansas State Lodge

Fraternal Order of Police

January 31, 2017

The Honorable Les Mason Chairperson
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Statehouse Room
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: HB 2059; Testimony of Blaine Dryden, President FOP State Lodge

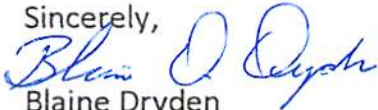
Dear Chairperson Mason and Members of the Committee:

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my written testimony in support of House Bill 2059. My name is Blaine Dryden, and I am the President of the Kansas State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police. I have worked as a police officer in Kansas for 29 years. On behalf of all 3,200 members of FOP Lodges throughout the State of Kansas, I am writing to express our support for this bill.

As you can imagine, law enforcement officers' work is physically taxing and dangerous, and many of our members suffer serious job-related injuries. When they suffer an injury, the men and women of my profession strive to return to the job as quickly as they can. They love the job, but many times, despite their desire to return to work, they find themselves on the long road to recovery before that can happen. During this recovery time, many of our members fall into precarious financial situations due to the decrease in their normal income. For many members, they face financial struggles for many years after they suffer an injury protecting the innocent and bringing dangerous criminals to justice.

HB 2059 provides law enforcement officers some piece of mind knowing that when they are called up on run towards the danger, they will be properly protected should they suffer an injury. All my members want is to be treated fairly for the dangers that they face. These changes ensure that. We support the changes to the AMA Guidelines that provide better coverage for our members.

I appreciate your time reviewing this testimony.

Sincerely,

Blaine Dryden
President, FOP State Lodge