



BEL AIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT • CHIEF OF POLICE DARRELL ATTEBERRY

02-05-2017

To: Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee members

Subject: HB 2243 Authorizing school security officers to use certain types of emergency safety interventions.

I support the basis of HB 2243 which would authorize school security officers to use certain types of emergency safety interventions.

At one point during my thirty-five year career in law enforcement, I had the opportunity to work on the Wichita Police Department. For a time I was a School Resource Officer supervisor and was frequently in middle and high schools after criminal or negative behavioral events.

I witnessed many situations where properly trained school security officers aided in volatile situations by using handcuffs to restrain out of control students before law enforcement officers arrived on scene. Their actions helped maintain a safe and secure setting for other students to learn.

Even though the greatest majority of students are good young people, there are also students in our schools that can and do pose a real danger to their peers, faculty and staff members. The current guiding statute regarding school security officers creates a barrier to providing a safe and secure learning environment for the students in our schools by not allowing properly trained school security officers to use restraints to control violent or destructive students.

I ask that while you consider the impact on the students who require restraint because of their behavior that you not forget to consider the other youth who are negatively impacted by that behavior.

Sincerely,

Darrell G. Atteberry
Chief of Police
Bel Aire Police Department
Bel Aire, Kansas