

CALVIN H. HAYDEN
SHERIFF



DOUGLAS G. BEDFORD
UNDERSHERIFF

DUTY HONOR SERVICE

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Testimony to the House Committee on Corrections & Juvenile Justice Opposing of HB2565 February 6, 2018

Chairman Jennings and Committee Members,

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office opposes HB2565 removing drug offenders from the list of offenders required to register pursuant to the Kansas Offender Registration Act.

The Kansas Offender Registration Act exists to enhance public safety. It "is intended to provide the public with information regarding convicted offenders who could pose a threat to the safety of our families."¹

Persons required to register are offenders who made a **conscious choice** to do at least one of the following:

- be in possession of a precursor with intent to manufacture a controlled substance;
- unlawfully manufacture a controlled substance;
- unlawfully sell or distribute a controlled substance;
- attempt, conspiracy or solicitation of one or more of the above offenses;
- a second conviction of one of the above offenses.

These are serious offenses that cause harm to communities. Few people in the United States are unaware of the opioid crisis and these types of offenses contribute to that issue.

On September 8, 2017, thirty-nine (39) people were arrested for distribution of meth, methadone, and marijuana in western Kansas. In other Kansas cases, large quantities of drugs have been recovered – seven (7) pounds of meth (McPherson County), sixteen (16) pounds of fentanyl (Wyandotte County), 250,000 pounds of marijuana (Wyandotte County, supply from Phoenix, AZ over a 9 year period). These are not people who committed the offense of simple possession. These are people who targeted a community and were causing great bodily harm or death.

¹ Kansas Offender Registration Act Brochure, KBI, September 2016

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The Johnson County Sheriff's Office believes the registry is a proactive means to protect communities from drug crimes and adamantly opposes the repeal of the drug offender registry.

Choices have consequences. If a person does not want to be required to register, there is a simple solution. Don't commit the crime.

We respectfully ask the committee to oppose HB2565.

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