



KANSAS STATE TROOPERS ASSOCIATION

To: House Transportation Committee

From: Steve Kearney, Executive Vice President
Kansas State Troopers Association

Date: February 1, 2018

Re: Testimony in Support – HB 2531 – Designating segments of Kansas and United States highways to members of the Kansas Highway Patrol

Chairman Proehl and members of the committee:

Thank you for considering the remarks of the Kansas State Troopers Association (KSTA) regarding HB 2531. The KSTA is a membership organization made up of more than 400 Kansas law enforcement officers. The membership includes troopers, motor carrier inspectors and capital police officers, both active and retired. The KSTA is a member of the National Troopers Coalition (NTC) which consists of 42-member associations in 38 states representing over 40,000 State Troopers nationwide.

The KSTA applauds the efforts of the Committee to establish segments of highways as memorials to fallen members of the Kansas Highway Patrol. Honoring those who have given their lives in the performance of their duties protecting and serving the citizens of the state of Kansas is a fitting and laudable action.

Our members work primarily in one-person units with their nearest assistance from another law enforcement officer frequently many miles and minutes away. Every day when they don their Kevlar vests and enter their mobile office, their patrol vehicle, they know that they are at risk of being injured or killed serving the citizens of the state of Kansas. Every time they step out of their vehicle to engage a member of the motoring public the danger exists not only from the individual stopped depending on the nature of the engagement, but in almost every instance from the traffic passing by at highway speeds.

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page (ODMP) in 2017 there were a total of 129 line of duty deaths of law enforcement officers. For context of that 129 line of duty deaths, 35% were motor vehicle related including vehicular assaults, vehicular crashes and being struck by a vehicle.

On behalf of the members of the Kansas State Troopers Association we encourage the you pass House Bill 2531 favorably out of Committee.