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House of Representatives

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John Resman
Representative, 121st District
Transportation Committee
Testimony in Support of HB 2436
Designating a portion of United States highway 69 as the
Brandon Collins memorial highway

February 8, 2018

Good afternoon Chairman Proehl and members of the Committee:

I am here today not only as a Representative, but also as a retired Deputy Sheriff. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of the men and women of the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and their support of HB 2436. The Johnson County Sheriff's Office began service in 1861. Today, the Office consists of over 500 Deputies and provides a wide range of services. One of them being a Patrol Division. In the history of the Sheriff's Office, 3 Deputies have lost their lives serving the citizens of Johnson County.

On September 11, 2016 at 1:40 am, Master Deputy Collins conducted a traffic stop in the area of 143rd Street and 69 Highway. While sitting in his patrol vehicle, it was struck from behind by a white pickup truck and Master Deputy Collins died at the scene from blunt force trauma. The impact caused the gas tank to his patrol vehicle to rupture causing it to be consumed by fire. The driver of the pickup was intoxicated at the time.

The average traffic stop is normally conducted in 10 minutes and is one of the most dangerous duties law enforcement officers perform routinely. After Master Deputy Collins stopped the vehicle, he approached the vehicle and as he was standing by the driver's door speaking with the driver, when a white pickup traveling north nearly hit him. After the pickup passed, Master Deputy Collins continued to speak with the driver and then returned to his patrol vehicle. At the same time the driver of the pickup continued north and then circled back around so that it was again south of Master Deputy Collins' location heading back north. As the pickup approached a second time, it struck his patrol vehicle.

Master Deputy Collins leaves behind a wife and two daughters.

During his career, Master Deputy Collins had been assigned to several Divisions to include Detention, and Narcotics. I personally knew and worked with Master Deputy Collins while he was assigned to Narcotics. Due to the specialized skills of this division, they were often asked to assist other personal. Master Deputy Collins never turned down a request to assist anyone or another division and often took the lead in accepting an assignment. Master Deputy Collins exemplified the meaning of a professional law enforcement officer.

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Again, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today, and when HB 2436 is put to a vote by the committee I hope you will favorably consider its passage.

Respectfully,

John Resman
Representative, District 121