



**House Judiciary Committee
February 16, 2022
HB 2648
Written Testimony**

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee:

Under this proposed House Bill, municipal law enforcement asset forfeiture seizure monies and monies derived from the sale of seized property would be used to only reimburse the municipal law enforcement for direct costs. The rest of the money will be sent to a state general fund. The Wichita Police Department strongly relies on state asset forfeiture seizure monies to help bolster narcotics investigations and other police department needs through the purchase of equipment and training. This House Bill will greatly harm the Wichita Police Department's ability to provide quality policing services to the city of Wichita and citizens who work and spend time in our city.

Currently, undercover narcotics investigations are greatly funded through the state asset forfeiture seizure monies that come primarily from narcotics investigations. Without this, the Wichita Police Department would not likely have the funding in the current budget to pay for undercover operations. Wichita, like many cities in Kansas, has seen an increase in methamphetamine and fentanyl cases over recent years. Over the past two years, Wichita has seen record numbers of fentanyl overdose deaths. The loss of this money would severely hamper investigations targeting fentanyl dealers. Drug use is one of the main factors that lead to violent crime and property crimes that plague our city. We should be looking for ways to help support law enforcement across the state and not take away a valuable resource.

Another provision of HB 2648 requires personal service of the Notice of Seizure for Forfeiture form. Currently, this is accomplished through certified mail. By requiring personal service, this will require more work to track down individuals who typically do not want to have law enforcement contact. The use of certified mail is much more efficient and will not take away from already strained resources.

Travis A. Rakestraw
Captain
Wichita Police Department