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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance
In Support of HB2063**

March 11, 2021

Chairman Longbine and Committee Members,

Our first responders make many sacrifices throughout their career. Some will give the ultimate sacrifice of their lives while protecting the citizens they serve. Some will be seriously injured ending their careers through physical disabilities. Others will become disabled due to other illnesses and injuries. The families of first responders also make many sacrifices throughout their loved one's career. The level of those sacrifices has come into clear focus to me as my now grown children relate some of the fears and harassment they lived through as children of a police officer.

HB2063 passed the House 125-0. It is a repeat of 2020 HB2452 that was recommended favorably by the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee last year after passing the House unanimously. Unfortunately, after reaching the Senate General Orders it died of COVID. We are now back before urging passage of HB2063.

HB2063 is a bill that gives the families of disabled first responders who die while on a duty related disability some options to sustain their lives absent the breadwinner they have lost. It will assure they will receive the level of benefits their loved ones earned while working in their profession and participating in the KP&F retirement system. The options offered in this bill will be the disability retirement benefits or in the alternative the normal retirement benefit had the KP&F member been eligible for a full retirement had they been able to work until the time of their death, whichever is greater.

These changes are consistent with the provisions for disability benefits in KSA 74-4960.

Our associations support HB2063. The change to benefits in these cases of death of a KP&F disabled member is the right thing to do. The families of these fallen law enforcement officers and firefighters have a rough road ahead emotionally and financially. It is critical that we provide them the financial support their loved one has earned for them.

We urge you to recommend HB2063 favorably.

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