



# *Kansas State Lodge*

## *Fraternal Order of Police*

Testimony to the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senate Bill 45  
Mik Shanks, President  
Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge  
February 6, 2019

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing my written testimony in support of Senate Bill 45. My name is Mik Shanks and I am the President of the Kansas State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police. On behalf of all 3,534 members of FOP lodges throughout Kansas.

Each year, law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical service and department of transportation employees lose their lives in the line of duty. A recent study reported, in the past ten years, 73 U.S. law enforcement officers were struck and killed by a vehicle in roadside incidents while outside their cruisers. During that same period of time 32 U.S. firefighters and emergency medical personnel were also struck and killed in roadside incidents. Sadly, these numbers don't even reflect the hundreds more first responders who are involved in roadside accidents who survive, but are severally injured or incapacitated.

Often the motorist responsible for the crash is engaged in a distraction, impaired by drugs or alcohol and drowsiness. Senate Bill 45 increases the penalty for involuntary manslaughter and aggravated battery of a public safety sector employee to a higher severity felony. The enhanced penalty is more appropriate of the seriousness of the crime. The goal of the legislation is to ensure the penalty for motorists who operates a vehicle impaired is appropriate and hopefully another step to ensure the safety of emergency personnel and transportation workers while working in and around the roadway.

We ask for your support, to favorably advance Senate Bill 45.