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## KANSAS STATE LODGE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

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Proponent Testimony to the  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
House Bill No. 2583  
Sergeant Ed Brower  
Kansas State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police  
March 7, 2024

Chair Warren and members of the Committee, I am Sergeant Ed Brower. I appreciate being given the opportunity to testify today in favor of House Bill No. 2583, My testimony today is offered as a member of the Kansas State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police. I have 32 years of experience as a law enforcement officer with the Wichita Police Department, where I am currently employed and in charge of the Mounted Unit which has 22 officers and 8 city-owned police horses.

The Mounted Unit's goals are to supplement and improve customary police operations during special events, including search and rescue operations, public relations duties, and specialized patrol operations. Auxiliary units like the Mounted Unit are made up of police department commissioned personnel. By special order, the Mounted Unit is brought into action to assist other departmental units in carrying out their duties during significant community events, police operations, or times when other patrol strategies are less successful at controlling crowds. This includes large-scale search and rescue operations.

The community requests often, and the Mounted Unit complies, representing the Police Department at special events aimed at fostering community-police relations. Every Friday and Saturday night, the Mounted can be seen working in Wichita's "Old Town" entertainment district. There are many eateries, pubs, clubs, and performance spaces in Old Town. On weekends, the entertainment district will see several thousand visitors each night. The Mounted Unit is essential for crowd control.



Losing a police horse or police K9 to a criminal act takes away not only a highly trained animal but also a respected police ally. The years of training and the drawn-out selection process that went into producing a working police horse would be lost. To carry out their law enforcement duties, riders and horses collaborate in a symbiotic relationship. Horses used by the police are treated like valued members of law enforcement and have strong emotional bonds with their handlers or riders.

House Bill 2583, which would enhance the penalties for killing or injuring police horses and dogs and mandate compensation in the event of such an offense, has my full support. At the appropriate time, I would be pleased to respond to questions.

Thank you.

Sergeant Edward Brower

Kansas State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police