

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary
In Opposition of SB 128
March 8, 2017

Chairman Wilborn and members of the Committee:

The Kansas Commission on peace Officers' Standards and Training (KSCPOST) is committed to providing the citizens of Kansas with qualified, trained, ethical, competent, and professional peace officers. It is also dedicated to adopting and enforcing professional standards for certification of peace officers to promote public safety and preserve public trust and confidence.

KSCPOST is responsible for regulating the law enforcement profession in Kansas. KSCPOST adopts and enforces rules and regulations that are necessary to ensure that law enforcement officers are adequately qualified, certified, and de-certified. It has the responsibility to establish and maintain a central registry of all Kansas law enforcement officers and their qualifications and histories. The registry is used by all agencies that appoint or elect law enforcement officers in Kansas as a resource when reviewing employment applications. KSCPOST's staff also conducts administrative investigations related to law enforcement officers' qualifications.

Among other provisions, New Section 3(b) of SB 128 provides:

The attorney general shall provide training for all law enforcement officers in identifying, responding to and reporting criminal acts that evidence prejudice based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. **The Kansas commission on peace officers' standards and training shall develop and certify a course of such training to be made available to all law enforcement officers.**

KSCPOST does not currently develop, certify or make training available to law enforcement officers, nor have we in the past. That function is conducted by the Kansas law enforcement training center (KLETC) pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5603. KLETC has long been in the practice of

providing hate crime identification, investigation, and reporting training to law enforcement officers.

KSCPOST is sensitive to the damage caused by hate crimes and does not oppose the other efforts set forth in SB 128. However, the requirement that KSCPOST develop and administer law enforcement training is outside the scope of our agency and would create an undue burden on staff.

KSCPOST respectfully requests that the Committee strike the provision from SB 128 Sec 3(b) that “The Kansas commission on peace officers’ standards and training shall develop and certify a course of such training to be made available to all law enforcement officers”. KSCPOST is neutral on the remainder of SB 128.

Gary E. Steed
Executive Director