



# Kansas Sheriffs' Association

PO Box 1122, Pittsburg, KS 66762

Phone: (620) 230-0864 ★ Fax: (620) 230-0866

*Sheriff Sandy Horton, Ret., Executive Director*

*Sheriff John R. Fletcher, Ret., Deputy Director*

[www.kansassheriffs.org](http://www.kansassheriffs.org)

Testimony to the Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice  
Opponent to HB 2475 Offender Registration Act  
February 4, 2020

Chairman Jennings and Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriff's Association submits testimony as an opponent of HB 2475.

The KSA does not support any part of this bill. Listed below are some of the reasons why we are opposed.

- 1) The bill will make registration for distribution or for possession of precursors to manufacturing a non-public registration.
- 2) The bill will make registration for juveniles for certain sexually violent crimes a non-public registration.

In Kansas one of the biggest issues we are facing is crimes being committed because individuals need to support their drug habit, mainly methamphetamine. Individuals who sell/distribute these illegal narcotics and or manufacture should absolutely still have to register and the registration should remain public.

Anytime law enforcement is in a community meeting one of the first topics that is brought up is drug houses. Shouldn't citizens be allowed to know that a convicted drug dealer has moved into their neighborhood? The KSA believes citizens should be made aware.

We understand that most juvenile records are private and agree. However, juvenile sex crimes are growing in numbers. Unfortunately, they have been convicted of a crime that if they were an adult would have placed them into prison. Juveniles should be treated just like adults when they are convicted of sex crimes that rise to the level to have to register. The registry is done in hopes of the offender not re-offending and creating even more victims.

KSA is willing to work with legislatures on the issue we believe is the most important issue and that is an exit strategy for registrants who have no violations, follow the rules and do not re-offend. Both HB 2474 and HB 2475 do not address this issue.

The Kansas Sheriff's Association asks the committee to absolutely consider these changes and how the changes could affect victims of these crimes and future victims. The KSA is strong opponent of this bill as written.

We thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Sheriff Jeffrey T. Easter  
Legislative Chair for the Kansas Sheriff's Association