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**Testimony to the House Financial Institutions and Pensions Committee
In Support of HB2452**

January 29, 2020

Chairman Kelly 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. Others will be seriously injured ending their careers through physical disabilities. 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.

HB2452 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 set at 50% of final average salary or in the alternative the normal retirement benefit had the KP&F member been able to retire whichever is greater.

These changes are consistent with the provisions for disability benefits in KSA74-4960.

Our associations support HB2452. The change to benefits in these cases of a duty related death of a KP&F 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.

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