



**Shawnee County
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TO: House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

FROM: Brian C. Hill, Sheriff, Shawnee County, Kansas

DATE: February 14, 2022

RE: Proponent Testimony for HB 2657 (amending 2021 Supp. K.S.A. 21-6804)

Chairman Owens and Members of the Committee:

As the Sheriff of Shawnee County, I would like to express my full support of HB 2657 and greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide brief written testimony. In summary, through HB 2657, this committee and the Kansas Legislature as a whole, has a tremendous opportunity to make a significant impact in the battle against violent crime. Having previously suffered a significant injury in the line of duty by a violent felon with an illegal firearm, I certainly understand and appreciate the call for enhanced penalties of individuals that perpetrate serious criminal acts while possessing illegal firearms. As a former major case and homicide detective, I have seen the significant harm that can be inflicted by prohibited persons possessing and using illegal firearms during the commission of crimes. Almost daily, law enforcement officers across the State of Kansas encounter felons, parolees, probationers and other prohibited individuals possessing illegal firearms. As you may know, there is a growing amount of statistical data showing a significant increase in the number of criminal offenses committed by individuals that are prohibited from possessing a firearm due to past criminal conduct. House Bill 2657 will provide a tremendous resource to law enforcement and prosecutors in the battle against persons possessing and using illegal firearms in the commission of violent crime. While I continue to be an adamant supporter of Second Amendment Rights, and understand the concept of rehabilitation through probation and parole, it is now time to make a significant and impactful step forward in strengthening and enhancing criminal sentences that are meant to deter prohibited persons from possessing and using illegal firearms. While HB 2657 will provide for those enhanced sentences, it will also provide for a balance of due process rights afforded to persons that may be subjected to those penalties.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank the members of the committee for their time and attention to this very important issue. I would respectfully urge the committee to pass HB 2657 and take an important step in the battle against violent crime and prohibited individuals that possess and use illegal firearms to victimize our communities.