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**Testimony to the House Judiciary Committee
In Support of SB189
March 7, 2023**

Chair Patton and Committee Members:

Our associations support SB189. We requested this bill in response to an issue we have encountered repeatedly that is not covered in the existing law on accessing personnel records from agencies where a police officer applicant has previously worked. Just to review the purpose of the existing statute, KSA 75-4379, this statute is designed to assist hiring agencies from hiring a troubled officer. It is important to all law enforcement agencies that we have complete background information when making hiring decisions. This is especially important when considering hiring an applicant who has served or is serving in a law enforcement position. The statute has been in place since 2018 and has been very helpful in our hiring decisions.

The existing gap in this process is when we are considering an applicant who has applied at another law enforcement agency but was not hired. In those cases, we should be sharing the information from the application and any background that was conducted. This is especially important if something was discovered that led that agency to not hire the applicant. You will see the new language to cover this on page 1, lines 12-14 and page 3, lines 2-5 and 7-9.

The documents this covers are the application, background investigation, polygraph or voice stress analysis results, and any psychological examination reports related to the application process.

This added information will help hiring agencies assure we are hiring quality applicants and not hiring a bad officer simply because we couldn't access the information from another law enforcement agency.

We urge you to move this bill forward favorably.

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