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Testimony of Patrick Fucik on behalf of Sprint Corporation
On Kansas HB 2084
Kansas House Energy, Utilities and Telecom Committee
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Chairman Seiwert and members of the committee - thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of HB 2084. Sprint is generally supportive of legislation that updates state laws in order for their 911 statutes to reflect the current needs in technology and other elements that all statewide 911 systems require to function in today's world.

I would like to point out that I have the pleasure of serving on the Kansas 911 Coordinating Council (Council) and have advised the Council on some of the provisions in HB 2084. I also serve on the Illinois 911 Advisory Board which is similar to the Council and that has the same charge to oversee that State's 911 system.

As I mentioned, Sprint's support for HB 2084 is based on the need to update Kansas' 911 statutes to in part address the need for additional resources necessary to update equipment needed to run the statewide system. That support is not for the exact amount of the end-user surcharge needed to generate the amount of resources that are necessary to upgrade that equipment and other system elements to maintain the system. Sprint will work with members of the Legislature to help determine the surcharge amount that is necessary but the proposed increase in HB 2084 puts the Kansas 911 surcharge more in line with the national surcharge average.

I also believe that it would be beneficial for the Committee to consider looking at what other states have done relative to consolidating local public safety answering points or PSAPs. One good example of that is the Illinois 911 rewrite bill that was enacted in 2014 with input from the 911 Advisory Board that I mentioned earlier. That new law, IL Public Act 99-6 which took effect on 1-1-16, provided funding for the necessary up-front costs and required consolidation based on size and other criteria. The new law has proven effective in reducing overall system costs for the State of Illinois and allows the surcharge fee to go further.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony on HB 2984. I look forward to working with members to advance HB 2084.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick R. Fucik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Fucik