

PAWNEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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SHERIFF
SCOTT KING

UNDERSHERIFF
LARRY ATTEBERRY

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

House Chairperson Fred Patton
Kansas State Capitol
Room 519 W
300 W 10th
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 419


Dear Chairperson Fred Patton,

My agency stands alongside the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) in support of this bill.

The bill amends K.S.A. 74-5602(g) by including the Special Agents of the Enforcement, Apprehension, and Investigations (EAI) division of KDOC alongside the lengthy list of other police officer or law enforcement officers listed in the statute. This is necessary so that those KDOC employees may attend the law enforcement training center, or any training school certified pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5604a, and training courses provided by the same. The bill also allows the Secretary of Corrections to designate, with the consent of the Director of Police Training at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC), an employee who is not a Special Agent to attend these trainings.

This is an important law enforcement officer safety, and public safety bill. EAI staff are responsible for the safe apprehension of absconders from parole supervision in our communities and partner with local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies on the fugitive task forces across Kansas. KDOC Agents also conduct criminal investigations alongside state and local law enforcement. Today, KDOC staff do not receive the same training in investigation, tactics, searches, and law as all other Kansas law enforcement officers. It is time for the Kansas Legislature to correct this past oversight.

Respectfully,


Scott King, Sheriff
Pawnee County Sheriff's Office