



## **CITY OF JUNCTION CITY, KANSAS FIRE DEPARTMENT**



Dear honored committee members,

My name is Kent Vosburg, and I am the EMS Chief for the Junction City Fire Department. I have been in EMS for 25 years, and I have seen just about every type of call that most of you can imagine. I have been there for the first breathe of life, and sadly for the last one also.

In all the time of responding to calls for help I have seen things that cannot be unseen. The first time you see the effects of a shotgun blast to the face, and the person is still alive and attempting to breathe as biological matter is falling from the ceiling around you. Imagine now you have to try to save that person's life, that leaves a mark on you.

Those types of calls aren't why I need a PTSD bill passed. We have peer support teams to work though those types of calls. I need the PTSD bill passed for the deep dark horrific things that I have had to witness. The things that when I went to a counselor for 1 of our 2 free visits for our Employee Assistance Program left her running from the room crying before I was even able to express the true reason why I was even there.

We in emergency services try to do a good job of attempting to take care of our own. Talking on the tailboard of the med unit, or around the kitchen table at the station, and those talks are great for most things. I need you to listen to our calls for help. As we see injuries and death day in and day out we need to know there is hope. The goal of the EAP is to see if they can put out a fire quickly, or if this person is going to need to be scheduled for many sessions. The PTSD bill as about giving hope, so they

know that no matter what horror they have been exposed to, that they have a way through it.

Thank You

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