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**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications  
In Support of HB2690  
February 13, 2024**

Chairman Delperdang and Committee Members:

Our associations are in strong support of HB2690. We believe the changes proposed in the bill will strengthen the work currently being done by the Council through better organization and improved personnel management. The Coordinating Council has done a stellar job of developing the technology backbone for the 911 systems in Kansas. But the original management design in current law is lacking. The establishment of an Executive Director is well justified, and in our opinion a sound business move. (Page 1, line 41) One of the major personnel management changes the bill produces is found on page 4 lines 31-34 making those full time “employees” of the Board state employees under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. This replaces the really poor system set out in current law where these employees are contracted by a third party to do work solely to carry out the mission of the Council.

One area of change created in the bill that we fully understand but do have concerns with is the transfer of the funds to the state treasury. It is important the 911 funds are dedicated for the operation and further development of the 911 system. We must protect them from being diverted to other purposes. We also see the importance of funds collected by the government being overseen directly by the government. But as we explore the details of the bill, we believe the intent of limitations on the use of the funds, such as those on page 6 line 43 through page 7 line 10 and on page 17 line 34 through page 18 line 11, is clear and should thwart any efforts to divert them for none 911 purposes.

For our PSAPS serving smaller populations, the increase in minimum financial support from the 911 fees is needed. We do believe there is a better mechanism to assure keeping that minimum adjusted for inflation rather than adjusting it through legislation every few years. **We ask the committee to consider amending the provision on page 28 lines 13-22 to make it clear the Board can adjust that figure, with certain guard rails in place. What we propose is an amendment stating the Board may authorize increasing the minimum, not more than once each year, by an amount not to exceed the inflation rate of the prior year. This should be done after analyzing the need based on expenditures of those counties receiving the minimum distribution and the impact of any such increase on the long term financial impact to the funds.** It is our belief this will allow a structured annual review of the need and provide a more stable funding source for these small PSAPS.

We appreciate those that provided the work and insight to bring this bill forward, and we urge you to move the bill forward favorably.

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