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Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice H.B. No. 2064

Testimony on Behalf of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police
By Don Scheibler, City of Hays Chief of Police
February 7th, 2013

Chairman Rubin and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police (KACP) and myself, I want to thank you for allowing us this opportunity to offer testimony on H.B. 2064. The KACP supports this bill for the following reasons:

H.B. 2064 amends the current state statute (K.S.A. 22-4612) that covers the responsibility of Kansas Law Enforcement and Corrections in relation to payment for prisoner health care. K.S.A. 22-4612 establishes that a Kansas law enforcement agency is held liable to pay a "health care provider" for health care services rendered to a prisoner in the custody of the agency. It also establishes that the medical bills for such services are able to be paid at a reduced rate or the medicaid rate. A "health care provider" is also defined in K.S.A. 22-4612 as a person licensed to practice any branch of the healing arts by the state board of healing arts. The issue is that EMS / Ambulance Services are licensed and monitored by Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services, not the Kansas Board of Healing Arts. Therefore ambulance bills cannot be required to be reduced to the medicaid rate.

H.B. 2064 adds an *operator permitted by the emergency medical services board* to the list of "health care providers". This will allow Kansas Law Enforcement and Corrections to pay for ambulance service fees for prisoners at a reduced rate. This will result in a substantial savings for all of Kansas Law Enforcement.

An example of this saving can be seen in my community where the ambulance service charges approximately \$575.00 to transfer a prisoner from the Ellis County Law Enforcement Center to the hospital. The medicaid rate would result in almost a 70% reduction (\$394.00) to this bill. During these tough economic times, when budgets are strained and law enforcement is being asked to do more with less, H.B. 2064 will allow tax payers dollars to go toward public safety instead of prisoner health care.

KACP supports passage of H.B. 2064 as currently drafted.