Kansas Sheriffs Association

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Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
In Opposition to HB2086 – Nonpayment of Offender Registration Fees
January 24, 2017

Chairman Jennings and Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriff's Association submits testimony opposing **HB2086**.

In proposed HB22086, on page 7 (A) states: (a class A misdemeanor if, within 15 days of registration, full payment is not remitted to the sheriff's office.) This would change the current law which states: (a severity level 9 felony if, within 15 days of the most resent registration, two or more full payments have not been remitted to the sheriff's office.)

The offender's we most often deal with are the sexual offenders and violent offenders. The KSA stance on the Offender Registration Act is to ensure the convicted person is held accountable to the act itself which requires mandatory registration and payment. The individual was convicted of a felony and in some cases a very heinous act. Part of their eligibility to return to society is to register with the sheriff's office. A small fee is attached for registration to off-set the administrative costs of enforcing the law.

Therefore, we believe that a felony crime was committed that caused the registration to occur and if the individual will not comply with the current law as written, then a severity level 9 felony has been committed and not a misdemeanor crime.

Law Enforcement's duty to the public is to keep the citizens we serve safe and especially from sexual and violent convicted criminals. This law devalues victims and potentially places other unsuspecting victims in harm's way due to sentencing guidelines of Class A misdemeanors.

The Kansas Sheriff's Association opposes HB2086 as written.

Thank you for allowing this opportunity to voice our concern over this bill.

Sheriff Jeffrey T. Easter
Legislative Chair for the Kansas Sheriff's Association