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**Testimony to the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee
In Opposition of HB2565
February 6, 2018**

Chairman Jennings and Committee Members:

Our associations oppose the elimination of the Drug Offender Registration laws as proposed in HB2565. We believe the Drug Offender Registration has value to the people in our communities. It is important to understand who is required to register under current law.

Those required to register are persons convicted of certain manufacturing offenses and certain distribution offenses. The following is from the KBI Offender Registration Brochure:

“Drug Offenses Requiring Registration: 15 year duration of registration
Possession of Precursor with Intent to Manufacture Controlled Substance
Unlawful Manufacture of Controlled Substance
Unlawful Sale or Distribution of a Controlled Substance”

Both illicit drug manufacturing and distribution create an inherent safety risk in the neighborhoods where this occurs. One of the reasons drug offender registration was implemented was because of the dangers posed by potential explosions during meth manufacturing and from the health hazard of the residue from illicit manufacturing. While today the cases of houses and buildings exploding during meth manufacturing is not as common as it was, there is a new threat from persons who are extracting THC oils from cannabis. While we have not seen these in Kansas, Colorado has had many of these cases. The risks from manufacturing illicit drugs are clear and our citizens deserve access to information as they try to keep their families safe.

The distribution of illicit drugs also creates hazards to the safety of neighborhoods. Violent crimes surrounding illicit drug sales occur regularly, and too often innocent persons are victims. Like with manufacturing, our members believe the registration for drug distributors is information the people in our communities need to properly protect their families from harmful activity.

During the discussions on this topic we have heard the statement that people use the drug registry for purposes of identifying where they can go to buy drugs. We do not believe that to be the case in Kansas. We researched that by reaching out to our membership and we found no one aware of such conduct in Kansas. When we researched this on the internet we could find nothing other than some 2006 editorials from other states considering drug offender registration at the time.

Our associations urge you to not move this bill forward and retain the drug offender registration.

Ed Klumpp
Legislative Liaison