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To Whom It May Concern:

Re: **HB 2016 aka Joey Weber Act**

I, Sheriff John Ketron, am a parent of an adult with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) as well as Sheriff of Clark County serving in my 3<sup>rd</sup> term.

I would ask you for your time and consideration on HB 2016. I am not only in support of this bill as a parent but as a sworn law enforcement officer. As a parent with an adult licensed driver in the state, I feel that this bill would help give information to officers upon a traffic stop that would help them if there was a communication issue. My son is very high functioning, but still has some issues with conversation at times. He was raised and taught by me what to expect if contacted by law enforcement from traffic stops to accidents. This has been great for him and I am aware that most parents don't think about this type of interaction and have been more concerned with general interaction with people and not law enforcement.

As a sworn officer in the State of Kansas, I feel that the training has increased on interaction with ASD citizens, but I feel there could be more. I have even travelled across the state to help present training not only to families but to emergency services including Law Enforcement, EMS and Fire personnel.

This bill would help notify law enforcement on a traffic stop to help them understand that they may have to take some more time on their interaction with the driver. This would be invaluable to the officer and the driver during this interaction. It would also depend on the training that the officer would have had to attend and experience with individuals of ASD.

I feel that had this been in place prior to the events that involved Joey Weber in Hays, KS that there could have been an immensely different outcome.

Please, take time and consider this bill as not only a member of law enforcement making contact with an ASD individual, but also as a parent of a child with ASD. Finally, put yourself in the driver's seat as a person with ASD and realize what a difference it would make if the officer that stopped you would have an idea and training to make the traffic stop easier to understand as well as safer for not only the driver but the officer.

Thank you for your time in this matter. If there are any questions regarding this issue, please contact me at my office.

Sheriff John M. Ketron