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Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE  
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2531  
RELATING TO DESIGNATING SEGMENTS OF KANSAS AND US HIGHWAYS TO MEMBERS  
OF THE KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

**February 1, 2018**

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is providing neutral written testimony for House Bill 2531 relating to designating segments of Kansas and US highways to members of the Kansas Highway Patrol killed in the line of duty.

While KDOT believes the purpose of this bill is commendable, there are a couple of departures in this legislation from prior memorial sign legislation that we believe should be mentioned. Legislation has been in place for several years requiring that requestors wanting to designate segments of roadway as a memorial highway had to provide funding to acquire and install the sign. An additional 50% of the initial cost is also required to cover future maintenance of the sign including replacement. Most notably, this requirement has applied to memorial signs for fallen members of our armed forces. Payment of the cost of the sign ensures memorial signs are budget neutral for KDOT. In addition, it ensures the family or other proponents of memorial signs have sufficient wide-spread support for such signs to raise the necessary funds. Elimination of this requirement for fallen members of the Kansas Highway Patrol may give rise to demands from families of those who have died in the service or our country or in while in other types of service to our state also be exempt from covering the cost to the state of not just the sign, but maintenance and replacement of such signs in perpetuity.

Another departure from previous statutes is the proposed legislation includes a request for a nickname on one of the requested segments. This has not been allowed in the past because nicknames are not allowed under the provision of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which governs the placement of signs on state highways in Kansas. Again, departure from past practices and the requirements of the MUTCD establish a precedent that or a concern for the agency and may be difficult to resolve when future requests for memorial sigs are made.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral written testimony on House Bill 2531.