



Kansas State Lodge

Fraternal Order of Police

Testimony to the
Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance
In Support of
House Bill 2031
Mik Shanks, President
Fraternal Order of Police State Lodge
March 20, 2019

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing my written testimony in support of House Bill 2031. My name is Mik Shanks and I am the President of the Kansas State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police. On behalf of over 3,500 members of FOP lodges throughout Kansas, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 2031.

Law enforcement and other first responder personnel regularly have the potential for occupational exposures to blood, which increases their risk for occupational blood-borne infection. In the course of their work, they are at risk of exposure to blood and body fluids (BBF) and potentially at risk of acquiring a blood-borne viral infection.

Bloodborne pathogens are disease causing microorganisms that may be present in human blood and other body fluids. The three most commonly encountered bloodborne pathogens are hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Bloodborne pathogens are transmitted when the pathogens from infectious body fluids enter the bloodstream through cuts or other breaks in the skin. They can also enter through mucus membranes.

House Bill 2031 would add contraction of a blood borne pathogen and cancer of the brain, skin, digestive system, hematological system and genitourinary system to the definition of “service-connected” as it is used regarding the death or any physical or mental disability of Kansas Police and Firemen’s Retirement System members. The bill would also establish the conditions for determining if the contraction of blood borne pathogens or the various cancers was service-connected.

Thank you for considering this very important matter. I respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 2031 as amended.