



Kansas Sheriffs' Association

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Testimony to House Health and Human Services Committee Proponent Testimony on HB 2281

Chairwoman Landwehr and Committee Members,

The Kansas Sheriff's Association is providing written testimony supporting HB 2281.

Due to short staffing across the State of Kansas at local mental health facilities and staffing issues on local hot lines, the KSA believes the implementation of the 988-suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline is absolutely needed.

Across the State of Kansas, the suicide rate has risen and the need for more mental health care has exploded in the last 3 to 5 years. KSA believes this bill is a step in the right direction but many other remedies are needed as well. For this bill to be completely successful, other needs are going to have to be met when it comes to properly funding and staffing local mental health facilities.

We want to be a good partner in mental health care needs due to the high call loads and strain on our personnel as first responders on most of these incidents.

Thank you for your consideration.

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