



Kansas State Lodge

Fraternal Order of Police

**Testimony to the
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
House Bill 2224
Mik Shanks, President
Kansas State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police
Testifying in Favor of Passage
March 25, 2021**

Chairman Hilderbrand and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing written testimony to be entered into the record in support of House Bill 2224. My name is Mik Shanks and I am the President of the Kansas State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police. On behalf of the 3,900 members of the largest fraternal police organization in the State of Kansas, I offer our support of the passage of House Bill 2224, revising the identification and classification of communicable diseases and how to address the post-exposures to our state's first responders

Although our Law enforcement officers and other first responders are aware of the real possibility of being exposed to hazardous circumstances they continue to forge ahead with unselfish service to our communities. Unfortunately, due to the nature of these hazards, particularly exposure to communicable diseases, result in detrimental effects on the human body. Keeping in mind, this not only adversely affects the first responder, it has a devastating impact on the spouses, family members and co-workers of these first responders. Split-second decisions have years and years of lasting results officer's families and normally these results are negative in nature.

We are always working on new and effective ways to minimize these exposures. The reality we must all face is that it falls upon our society to advocate for care for all of the first responders who place themselves in harm's way when it comes to carrying out their duties. In order to combat these exposures after such incidents, we have to be able to verify these diseases for our medical community to even think about treatments. This begins with identification and classification, which is one of the solutions this bill provides.

We stand aligned with several members of the Kansas Medical Community other First Responder Organizations as well as our fellow Law Enforcement Brethren in steadfast support of this bill's passage.