



Kelly McCoy, M.Ed., CTO  
Director, Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute  
The University of Kansas  
1515 St Andrews Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66047

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Alexis Simmons  
Office Assistant to Rep. Shannon Francis (274-W)  
Committee Assistant, Transportation and Public Safety Budget Committee  
[alexis.simmons@house.ks.gov](mailto:alexis.simmons@house.ks.gov)  
(785) 296-7466

Ms. Simmons;

On behalf of Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute, I would like to offer brief testimony in support of House Bill No. 2270 to the Transportation and Public Safety Budget Committee.

The mission of the Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute is to provide accessible, comprehensive training and credentialing for fire and emergency response personnel to promote health and safety in Kansas communities. (Strategic Planning Workshop Report, November 2020)

Communities across the United States have two expectations of their local fire departments: quick response times and towering competence. The public rightly equates quick response times and towering competence with life safety. Firefighters and emergency response personnel arriving quickly and safely to an emergency incident must be competent, which results from being well-trained.

The actions firefighters and emergency response personnel take on the scene of an incident are *always* a reflection of training received upstream. At some point in time, each emergency responder had to receive training before performing the appropriate actions needed to mitigate the incident.

A logical argument can be made that training *is the job* of a firefighter. Without vigorous and ongoing training, firefighters will not meet the expectations of their communities.

Our work at Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute is excellence in training.

Further, we strive to do our part to help with workforce development in the State by working with local high school fire science students, including student in Liberal High School's fire science program, in gaining National credentialing in Firefighter I and II certification through offering "live fire" training.

We are the dedicated agency in the State of Kansas accredited by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress and Pro Board to award 21 levels of National certification to firefighters and emergency response personnel.

With the above background established, our understanding of HB 2770 is that it financially allows us to continue our important mission. The revenue Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute receives from the fire insurance tax premium levy is appropriate to funding our operations.

We remain sensitive to for-profit businesses in the State and we manage our budget in a fiscally responsible manner and strive to be good stewards of the resources we have been entrusted with.

Further, we remain supportive of the Office of the State Fire Marshal and Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services and the important work they are administering in the State on behalf of our citizens and believe HB 2770 helps them to continue their important functions.

I am ready, willing, and able to speak before the committee. Should the committee have further questions, I am happy to help and answer any questions members may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly McCoy  
Director  
Kansas Fire & Rescue Training Institute  
[kellymccoy@ku.edu](mailto:kellymccoy@ku.edu)  
785-864-9199