OFFICE ROOM 134-E STATE CAPITOL BUILDING TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612 (785) 296-7376; (785) 296-0103/FAX David.Haley@senate.ks.gov STATE OF KANSAS



DISTRICT CIVIC CENTER STATION POST OFFICE BOX 171110 KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66117 (913) 321-3210; (913) 321-3110/FAX SenHaley@aol.com

SENATE CHAMBER

DAVID B. HALEY SENATOR DISTRICT 4 WYANDOTTE COUNTY

January 29, 2015

<u>TO</u>: Senator Greg Smith; Chair/ Corrections and Juvenile Justice Senator Forrest Knox; Vice-Chair/ Correction and Juvenile Justice Senator Pat Pettey; Ranking Member/ Corrections and Juvenile Justice

RE : SB-18 / Body Cameras for Law Enforcement Officers

Mr. Chairman / Members of the Committee :

Thank you for hearing this ever growing matter which has proven to provide protection to both the police and to the general public.

This bill, today, in my opinion actually represents a superior implementation of concepts I have previously introduced and supported; advocacies for "dash cameras" in all patrol vehicles as well as videotaping employed in all felony charged interrogations; neither of which ever received a hearing in the Kansas Legislature. Simply, all on duty law enforcement officers wear an affixed camera during all interactions, with reasonable and mutually agreed to exceptions.

Consider please the support given expressed by Captain Brian Hill whose comments illustrate the proven value of police body cameras and convey my constituency's support for their implementation in our law force in that the Kansas City Kansas Police Department has already deployed body recording devices to great success in our metropolitan area. It is widely held that these devices will contribute to transparency, fairness, and trust between officers and their protectorate citizens in the greater public.

Body cameras come in a variety of forms. They can be mounted on a piece of headgear, or on the officer's glasses or sunglasses, or else attached to the body directly. They are manually operated by the officer in command of the device, and they support the officer on duty's warranty that they have abided by the correct protocol. Body cameras do not try to catch police officers or civilians in the act. There is no partiality or bias to their evidence. A body camera simply offers a recording of the arrest as it has transpired, and the release of their evidence is left to the police inspector or the court's discrepancy.

Most succinctly states Brian Hill, Division Captain of the Johnson County Sheriff's Department(as lead guest on KCPT television's RUCKUS hosted by conservative host, Mike Shanin earlier this month) : "The biggest benefit is it captures the incident. The power of video. We live in a day and age where it's a big deal...Both from an evidence standpoint in the courtroom, and in protecting officers to demonstrate they're doing what they're supposed to be doing, I think it's a very very valuable resource to officers."

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

JUDICIARY PUBLIC HEALTH & WELFARE ETHICS, ELECTIONS & LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOINT COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

HEALTH POLICY OVERSIGHT STATE TRIBAL RELATIONS CHILDREN'S ISSUES CORRECTIONS & JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT To have a live recording on file for use as indisputable evidence on a courtroom floor can make or break a sentence. Having a recording shows that an officer followed protocol. It can make for a more compliant public through the awareness that in the event of an arrest their actions will be subject to the scrutiny of the law. In today's challenging rhetoric, the status of an officer demands better insurance. These cameras will improve the trusting relationship between officers and the ones they are sworn to protect.

As with all advances in the progress towards a safer and more prosperous community, these tools have a cost. Various federal and other grants are available but the equipment's costs pale in comparison to, for example, a potentially indefensible claim of excessive force. The cost argument might have once been said when police squad cars were introduced, enabling our law officers with greater swiftness in conducting emergency responses.) New surveillance devices will bring an objective, pacifying ethos to the politically contentious subject of police justice and offer a dynamic of testimony which transcends the testy sway of public rhetoric. Sooner or later, every modern police force will implement these cameras. They are the way of the future, because in court, more than anywhere else, a testimony can make a world of difference. We may not have been the first to discover the difference that these cameras can make. But I certainly hope that we will not be the last.

Mr. Chairman /Members, with the Committee's permission, I defer to other proponents on SB 18 and would then be available for questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

- David Haley (WY)
- Senator / Kansas
- Ranking Minority / Senate Judiciary Committee

State of Kanzas House of Representatives

State Capitol, 561-W Topeka, Kansas 66612 (785) 296-7648 gail.finney@house.ks.gov



1754 N. Madison Ave. Wichita, Kansas 67214 (316) 768-0615

Gail A. Finney Representative, 84th District

January 29, 2015

Testimony SB 18 / Proponent

Thank you chairman Senator Greg Smith and the Senate Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB18 which relates to the use of body cameras by law enforcement officers.

As an elected official that represents a significant number of people of color in Wichita, KS, I am certain the time has come whereas we need to do something to curtail and address a deep-rooted resentment and mistrust of law enforcement. As long as I can remember, my immediate community has been disproportionally targeted with intense police surveillance, they have often felt racially profiled, harassed, violated, and over-saturated with minor traffic citations by law enforcement, particularly young men of color. Be it intentional or not.

In the wake of the Ferguson, MO issue and multiple police involved shootings in Wichita, and across the state, I strongly believe the use of body worn cameras (BWC) statewide will be a win-win for our citizens, law enforcement officers, and law enforcement agencies in the State of Kansas. It could serve as a tool to protect both the police and the public, and be a safeguard against abuse of power. Body cameras would help make a positive difference in the public trust and assist our officers. If implemented and utilized correctly, the camera recordings will be able to show exactly what happened, what was said, the actions or inactions, and making sure we have more accountability and transparency.

Police officers' videos can directly protect officers and departments by securing convictions and decreasing time spent on civil litigation and it could help strengthen the policing profession and build community relationships. The use of BWC video could impact police-citizen relations in a positive way by reducing citizen complaints about officer misconduct and the use of force in police-citizen encounters. It could be the answer to combating negative public perceptions and help courts have the evidence needed to overcome the he said/she said situations.

Bottom line, this is an issue of public trust and so much goodwill can be won by having some major decisions made by law enforcement recorded on tape. Although, there are no quick fixes, I realize that this will not be a cure all, but it could be a good step forward in repairing a deep-seated distrust between law enforcement and communities of color. I think it will be worth the money we invest into BWCs. I ask that you favorably pass SB18.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rep. Gail Finney Kansas 84th District



TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE OF THE KANSAS SENATE

SB 18 – ENACTING THE POLICE AND CITIZEN PROTECTION ACT; RELATING TO USE OF BODY CAMERAS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

JANUARY 29, 2015

Thank you, Chairman Smith, and members of the committee for affording this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 18. My name is Micah Kubic and I serve as the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas, a membership organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening the freedoms guaranteed to all of us by the Constitution.

The ACLU of Kansas is pleased to support SB 18, the police and citizen protection act. This bill mandates the use of body cameras by law enforcement officers, but does so in a manner that appropriately balances interests of accountability, privacy, and safety.

Our support for body cameras may be surprising to some, as the ACLU opposes the proliferation of government surveillance, overreach, and invasions of privacy. However, body cameras worn by law enforcement officers are a different matter; their primary function is to allow the public to monitor government and hold government accountable. When government is not monitored and held accountable, it can run amok and trample on constitutionally-guaranteed freedoms.

We support body cameras as a check on government power, as a tool for promoting police accountability, as a strategy for reducing incidences of police misconduct, and as a means of protecting law enforcement officers from false allegations. Cameras provide real, objective evidence of how interactions between law enforcement officers and citizens transpire. This knowledge gained can be used to stamp out misconduct, make systemic change, and reinforce or reestablish trust between police and the public.

The advantages of body cameras in improving police practices are so clear that 102 police departments across the country are implementing, testing, or in the process of purchasing body cameras. The Topeka Police Department became one such department when it purchased 200 cameras in October 2014, joining cities as large as Los Angeles, California and as small as Owasso, Oklahoma.

To safeguard our rights and be effective, body camera use must be guided by good policy. The policy must take into account when police must use cameras, when law enforcement should be prohibited from using cameras, when notification should be provided to those being taped, who should have access to footage, and how long recordings should be retained. SB 18 does an admirable job of addressing these issues, balancing accountability, privacy, and safety.

Although we support SB 18, the ACLU does urge some improvements to the bill. First, we recommend that the window of time before a recording is deemed non-relevant and discarded be expanded from two weeks to four weeks. Two weeks may simply be too short of a time for the public and law enforcement to determine whether a given incident was recorded and that footage should be consulted.

We urge a modest revision to the bill's policy on when body cameras should be activated. We believe that the current language—which allows officers to turn the cameras off only in the most personal of moments—is overly intrusive on law enforcement. We suggest that the language be modified so that video and audio recording functions are only activated when an officer is responding to a call for service, or at the initiation of any other law enforcement or investigative encounter. This also ensures that body cameras will not be used for general surveillance of the public, especially of citizens engaging in speech protected by the First Amendment, such political or policy-oriented rallies.

Finally, we urge that the bill be amended so as to allow members of the public to provide anonymous tips. As currently written, tips provided to law enforcement in person would be recorded by the body camera, potentially endangering the individual providing the tip. We suggest that language be included giving anonymous tipsters the option to have the camera turned off.

The ACLU is proud to support SB 18. If adopted, it would result in a more accountable government, enhanced protection of constitutionally guaranteed rights, and safer communities.

State of Kansas House of Representatibes

State Capitol Topeka, Kansas 66612 (785) 296-7651 ponka-we.victors@house.ks.gov



P.O. Box 48081 Wichita, Kansas 67201 (316) 573-6247

Ponka-We Victors Representative, 103rd District

January 28, 2015

Chairman Senator Smith and Senate Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee,

I stand in support of Senate Bill 18 (SB18), the Police and Citizen Protection Act. I believe body cameras worn by law enforcement officers statewide in Kansas will help improve the service expected of police officers and promote the perceived legitimacy and sense of justice that communities have about their police departments.

Furthermore, SB18 states that, "a law enforcement officer shall activate the recording function of the body camera whenever such officer is on duty, continuously record with the camera and make an effort to record interactions with others with the camera" thus allowing both parties to have an accurate public record that allows the entire community to see what really happened.

I stand behind our law enforcement officers, as well as our citizens and believe this bill will be beneficial to my home community of Wichita, KS. I urge the committee to please consider this piece of legislation. Thank you for your time and please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

onker We Sictory

Representative Ponka-We Victors

(Written Testimony Only)

Sheila Officer 6400 Scottsville Wichita, KS 67219 316-371-0013 scofficer@prodigy.net

Support of Senate Bill 18- Body Cam Bill

"Police & Citizens Protection Act"

Cameras alone cannot fix the twin problems of **police accountability and the excessive use of force!**

The fact that police already have "dash cams" which serves as additional eye witnesses still presents uncertain documentation and questions of evidence and integrity. Remember Rodney King? VIDEO of police brutality at its' worse, shown to the world, yet ineffective for a conviction. BUT, Body Worn Cams (BWCs) have advantages, and are being used by law enforcement departments across the country!

My name is Sheila Officer. I am an active registered voter of Kansas, mother of one son and 8 grandsons. I am also the Chair of the Racial Profiling Citizens Advisory Board of Wichita.

I support SENATE BILL 18 and ask you to support and pass the Police & Citizens Protection Act.

While there is no clear cut answer or tool to assure black and brown mothers that their sons will not be victims of excessive force or engage in a fatal encounter with law enforcement; the implementation of BWCs will help lessen that probability and inject some sense of oversight and control of officer's behavior.

The failure of police departments to effectively address officer's misconduct has resulted in the loss of lives, low level of citizen's trust and confidence in law enforcement, and in some cases, have led to costly payments at taxpayer's expense!

I firmly believe that BWCs have several benefits and **SHOULD** be implemented in all law enforcement departments in Kansas. Some benefits of BWCs are:

- 1) Visual documentation of officer's and citizen's activities.
- 2) Reinforcement of policies which will increase officer's professionalism.
- 3) Video can be used for officer's training.
- 4) Reduce Use of Force incidents
- 5) Help promote supervisor's accountability.

Sheila Officer 6400 Scottsville Wichita, KS 67219 316-371-0013 scofficer@prodigy.net

6) BWCs may provide an extra boost to the low level of trust between citizens and the police.

While it is not part of the reality for White America, it is a daily reality for Black and Brown America that we are the victims of excessive force and unconstitutional policing.

From black and brown neighborhoods in Missouri, to Ohio, New York, California, to Kansas, excessive force, police brutality and police unaccountability rings loud and clear. Just within the last five years, the Wichita Police Department has fatally shot and killed several members of our community. Would body cams have helped these individuals? Would the police have used other options instead of shooting first? Especially, if they knew they were on active video? We will never know since BWCs were not used.

The U.S. Department of Justice recently presented a report of three cities studied after implementation of the BWCs. These cities are Mesa, Arizona, Rialto, California, and Phoenix, Arizona. The studies showed that these departments experienced lower citizens' complaints and use-of-force events by 59% and 87.5 % respectively. The report entitled "Police Officers Body Worn Cameras- Assessing the Evidence.

This presents proof that BWCs do have an effect on officer's conduct. This is NOT a quick fix. But, with the help of legislators passing laws that govern BWCs and the implementation of STRONG, enforceable, department policies it can be a GREAT start.

I thank you for your time and attention and I personally thank our Representatives for seeing the need, standing for justice and humanity and taking the action needed to protect the civil liberties of all!

Should you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Sheila Officer-

Racial Profiling Citizens Advisory Board Chair

1/27/2015

TO: Chairman Greg Smith; Senate Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee Re: SB18

It is an honor to be able to submit written testimony to the committee in support of SB18, a pressingly important bill.

I'm urging the committee to pass SB18. This model legislation also referred to as the "police and protection act", when passed, will give Kansas the opportunity to lead by example and show citizens, communities and officers across the state, that we are vested in their safety, protection and wellbeing.

Body cameras are not a new idea, with many jurisdictions already putting policies in place to fund and deploy the devices.

President Barack Obama asked Congress in December for \$75 million/year for 3 years in grant money to help law enforcement agencies buy more cameras, believing that the investment could help purchase 50,000 cameras over three years. It goes without saying that with the passing of SB18, the State of Kansas must also make a commitment to funding a portion of the cost associated with equipping each law enforcement officer in all jurisdictions with body cameras. The community believes that this is a small price to pay for transparency, accuracy and peace of mind for both the officer and the citizen involved. There is a feeling of mistrust between some communities, particularly minority communities and the police, this feeling exist across our nation and **yes** it does exist right here in Kansas!

Data is proving that body cameras can significantly help boost transparency in officer interactions with the public, thereby increasing trust factor. SB18 presents Kansas with the immediate opportunity to be proactive and not reactive when it comes to serving, protecting and trusting. Again, I am urging the Senate Juvenile Justice Committee to pass SB18 out of committee so that it can be passed when presented to the body of the Whole Committee.

Respectfully,

Melody McCray-Miller

Former State Representative, 89th District Former Ranking Member, House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Chair, Kansas Urban League Chair, African American Coalition Mary Dean President Kansas Justice Advocate, Inc. Wichita, KS 67218 (316) 371-2253

Chairman Senator Greg Smith and Committee

January 27, 2015

Dear Chairman Greg Smith:

My name is Mary Dean and I am Founder and President of Kansas Justice Advocate, In., in Wichita KS. I am writing this letter in support of **SB18** body cameras for police officers. The reasons why I support **SB18**, is because I have seen for myself as an advocate for people, up close and personal the negative impact of losing a loved one from an officer involved shooting.

I support **SB18** because I believe that body cameras is way to hold police accountable for their actions and also protect cops who are falsely accused of wrongdoing. The use of putting body cameras on police officers could have the potential to be a win-win situation for the community and police officers. Police Departments across the country whose officers wear body cameras are finding that for every time they're used to record an abusive officer, there are other times where they save an officer from false accusations of abuse or unprofessional behavior. For one thing the recordings could be used to fight off false charges that could lead to costly lawsuits or court settlements. The cameras could also encourage police, who would know their actions are being recorded, to behave better.

Hopefully, Chairman Smith you and your committee will take seriously the need to support and pass SB18, which will serve the better good for our communities and our Wichita Police Officers.

Cordially,

Mary Dean

President of Kansas Justice Advocate, Inc.

1

Subject:	Statement on SB 18 from Russ not sent to Fontaine yet
From:	Janice Bradley (janbrad89@yahoo.com)
To:	equalenforcement@cox.net; chappells2u@cox.net; gafinney5@yahoo.com; gail.finney@house.ks.gov;
Date:	Wednesday, January 28, 2015 12:32 AM

Dear Friends in the Kansas Senate: Re: SB 18

Occupy Wichita supports Senate Bill 18. On body cameras will protect people from bad cops and they will protect cops from bad people. This is not the whole solution to the current injustices taking place, but it is an excellent start. In Wichita, mentally ill people have been shot, others tased while they are already down and assaulted. The expenditures for cameras will likely pay for themselves in that they will reduce complaints and expensive lawsuits against police brutality and excessive force and at the same time, reduce incidents of force by police against citizens.

It is inconceivable that bad cops who assault and kill people when there are other non-lethal alternatives suffer no consequences. Allowing this to go on sullies the reputation of all cops. Cameras are not the whole solution, but they are a good start. Adequate procedures are necessary for a successful outcome. With responsible use, on body cameras will help increase accountability and transparency which are necessary components of good policing and good relations with the communities.

Thank you for your attention,

Russ Pataky Occupy Wichita

Subject.	Statement on SD To nom reace & Social Justice Center Sent to Fondame
From:	Janice Bradley (janbrad89@yahoo.com)
То:	equalenforcement@cox.net; chappells2u@cox.net; gafinney5@yahoo.com; gail.finney@house.ks.gov;
Date:	Tuesday, January 27, 2015 11:36 PM

Subject: Statement on SB 18 from Peace & Social Justice Center sent to Fontaine

Dear Friends in the Kansas Senate:

The Peace and Social Justice Center supports Senate Bill 18. We hope you will pass this important legislation for the protection of the Kansas public, some of whom have been treated unjustly but have little recourse. This will also support law enforcement in several ways: 1) It will help those officers who obey the law and perform their duties responsibly, and 2) It will help in prosecuting actual offenders, both among the public and among the officers.

As far as the cost goes, we have no doubt that the cameras will pay for themselves in the long run, by making investigations much more efficient.

Thank you for your attention,

Laura Tillem, Vice-Chair, Peace and Social Justice Center of South Central Kansas

900 S.W. Jackson St., Room 101 Topeka, KS 66612

Mildred Edwards, Executive Director

Kansas Office of the Governor African American Affairs Commission

Phone: (785) 296-4874 Fax: (785) 296-1795 Kaaac.ks.gov

Sam Brownback, Governor

January 27, 2015

Representative Gail Finney Kansas 84th District Kansas State Capitol Topeka, KS 66612

Re: SB 18 Use of Body Cameras in Local Enforcement Agencies

Dear Representative Finney,

Technology and tools for effective oversight in law enforcement have long been a topic of discussion for citizens and police officials alike. In fact, the Kansas African American Affairs Commission has been working with local enforcement agencies and the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) to improve fair and impartial policing practices for well over five years; and along with KLETC, have hosted a fair and impartial policing academy for the past two. Despite the progress made, in an effort to combat distrust and hostility between law enforcement and the communities we serve, a State of Kansas mandate for local efforts and local leaders on the topic is still greatly needed.

Additionally, this topic is one of seven areas of recommended positive interventions derived from interviews with various police departments across the country in a report released by PolicyLink and Advancement Project as long ago as 2001, entitled Community-Centered Policing: A Force for Change.

Recommendations from the fourteen year old, above noted, report include "technology and tools for effective oversight" as an imperative for local enforcement agencies to prioritize finding resources from private, local, state, or federal entities to equip all officers with body-worn cameras to help eliminate violations and discrepancies in tactical missions, traffic stops, and any other interaction with community residents. These and other tools are recommended for use by departments to help investigate and hold officers accountable, and to help eliminate racial profiling and any other potential police misconduct due to a person's class, religion, gender, physical or mental ability, or sexual orientation.

It is also important to note that, as the expense associated with developing a uniform data collection process in Kansas has been deemed unfeasible in the development of a statewide racial profiling bill, the use of body cameras can serve as a much needed positive step toward easing public scrutiny and suspicion in local policing practices, ultimately improving community/police relations statewide.

Other tools recommended to improve State of Kansas fair and impartial policing practices are:

1. **Ensuring Transparency and Accountability**: Local enforcement agencies are funded by the public and are accountable to the public. Therefore, police departments in our communities will not investigate themselves. Enforceable accountability measures with a proven track record will be established that ensure impartiality in instances where police brutality, racial profiling, and/or improper use of force are in question. This will include launching effective independent review boards broadly representative of the community, not just municipal interests. The actions, investigations, and publication of all relevant information, evidence, and policy

recommendations of these review boards will be transparent and enforceable. These boards will also ensure that data and summary information are properly collected and made publicly available on particular incidents, progress, and trends that relate to suspected police brutality and racial profiling over the years for the department.

2. **Investing in Fair and Impartial Policing Training:** Racial and class bias is real. Whether implicit or explicit, it influences perceptions and behaviors and can be deadly. Law enforcement personnel will be required to undergo racial bias training in addition to building skills that exemplify problem-solving strategies, conflict mediation techniques, and de-escalation tactics. Officers will become adept at being responsive to community needs and voices, and achieving consistency and continuity in engaging community while enforcing the law.

3. **Ensuring Diversity:** Police department personnel should be representative of our communities. Therefore, police departments will adopt personnel practices that result in the hiring and retention of diverse law enforcement professionals who are culturally sensitive, speak the communities' languages, and are residents of their patrolled communities. Departments will use diversity best practices established in this and other sectors, and will implement and monitor diversity hiring and retention guidelines for our local police departments to further community trust and partnerships.

4. **Proactively Engaging Communities of Color:** Too often, law enforcement personnel hold stereotypes about Black and brown youth and vice versa. Lack of familiarity breeds lack of understanding and increases opportunities for conflict. Police departments will work to deconstruct stereotypes and bias by identifying regular opportunities for constructive and quality engagement with youth and others living in the communities they serve. Departments will therefore review and implement best-practice approaches that can help engender more trust with our residents, and partner with our communities in solving and preventing problems before they occur.

5. **Rejecting Militarization:** Police will not become an occupying force in our neighborhoods. Emergencies and terrorism are real concerns for our communities, but departments will not rely on military tactics to police everyday problems. Deterring petty crime, protecting our communities, and monitoring peaceful protests will not involve military weaponry. Departments will exercise extreme caution and closely examine the need for programs that transfer military equipment into our local police departments, as they negatively impact training and the use of unnecessary force that often incites charged community reactions and violence.

6. **Examining and Implementing Good Models:** It is possible to develop police departments that respect, serve, and protect all people in our communities regardless of age, race, physical and mental ability, gender, or class. Departments will partner with other local, state, and federal entities to quickly identify and establish new policies and practices to improve policing in communities.

Addressing the challenges facing communities across the State of Kansas will require local enforcement agencies and the communities they serve to make a significant investment in the social capital necessary to foster civility and reaffirm trust. Any support that can be provided to achieve any of the above measures is highly recommended.

We thank you for your consideration and support of SB18.

Sincerely,

Jilloland

Mildred Edwards, Ph.D. Executive Director, Kansas African American Affairs Commission

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB18 BY DR. WALT CHAPPELL, Vice-Chair Racial Profiling Advisory Board of Wichita, KS

Honorable Chair, Sen. Greg Smith and Corrections Cmte. Members, January 28, 2015

Equal justice guaranteed under the USA and Kansas constitutions is assumed to be granted to all people living in America. However, recent and past history has repeatedly shown that there are two different procedures for how laws are enforce in our nation.

If a person living in Kansas commits an act which a law enforcement officer decides is a crime, they are immediately charged, given a citation to appear in court and/or arrested. A public record of each citation issued and/or arrest made is available for publication the next day.

Unfortunately, if that same officer uses excessive force to beat or shoot a person they have stopped, not only are they not charged with a crime, but the name of the officer plus the details about the incident are seldom released to the public. This lack of transparency and accountability must stop.

The State wide policies for the use of body cameras in SB18 are a major step forward to rebuild trust in Kansas law enforcement agencies and the officers they employ. Seeing and hearing exactly what took place during and after a stop will eliminate the "he said-she said" debate based on unfounded allegations from either side.

This bill makes it clear that the video evidence is to be available to the person stopped, their attorney and immediate family. So, rather than hide behind LEA policies which prohibit the release of the officers names or details of a questionable stop, beating or shooting, passing this bill will provide the transparency and accountability necessary to uphold each person's Constitutional rights.

If body video cameras are purchased and assigned to patrol and community policing officers, then the policies in this bill should apply throughout the state. However, given the budget constraints of most LEAs in Kansas, I recommend that the first sentence in Sec. 2, lines 16-18, subsection (a) be removed. It is not realistic to mandate millions of dollars of expense.

Other than this one change, I strongly support the transparency, accountability, privacy and release of factual information which this bill will provide for both the people stopped by LEA officers and the officers themselves.

Protecting the good name and earned trust of the vast majority of Kansas law enforcement officers is very important. Having video footage to show that they did their job professionally, without bias or prejudice and with an appropriate use-of-force will dispel rumors and unfounded accusations. And, these same videos will help provide equal justice for people who were the victims of criminal behavior by the few officers who hide behind their LEA's secrecy policies.

I urge you to pass SB18 as amended.

For more information, please contact Dr. Walt Chappell, (316)838-7900 or visit the RPAB website at: <u>http://www.racialprofilingwichitaks.com</u>