



Williams County
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Verlan Kvande, Sheriff
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"We will protect the citizens of Williams County with honor, integrity, and professionalism"

House Bill 1371 Testimony: In Favor – DO PASS

January 31, 2025 | 9:00 am | House Government and Veterans Affairs

Chairman Schauer and members of the Committee,

I am writing you in full support of HB1371. In my 27 years of service with the Williams County Sheriff's Office, I have learned that one of the most significant challenges that law enforcement professionals face as they near retirement is the need for health insurance. The rising cost of health insurance, particularly for those retiring before becoming eligible for Medicare, forces many to consider delaying retirement. Individuals sometimes even feel forced to start a new career to ensure continued access to health coverage.

If HB 1371 were to pass, the cost of health insurance would be covered for retired peace officers who are not Medicare-eligible. The opportunity for law enforcement professionals to truly retire at 55, or when reaching the required service years, with access to fully funded health insurance, would be life-changing for these dedicated professionals.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony and this bill. I respectfully request a DO PASS for HB 1371, which will undoubtedly positively impact the law enforcement community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Verlan Kvande".

Sincerely,

Sheriff Verlan Kvande