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July 26th, 2013

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas
Capital, 300 SW 10th Ave., Ste 241S
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Governor Brownback,

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police supports the request of Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt to call a special session of the Kansas Legislature for the purpose of addressing the sentencing gap created by the US Supreme Court decision in Alleyne vs. US. As you are aware from the Attorney General's letter, this case strikes at the heart of the "hard 50" sentencing provision put in place by the citizens of Kansas through their elected representatives. Without immediate action the victims of these atrocious crimes impacted by this decision will not receive the justice they deserve. The offenders will have their minimum sentences cut in half jeopardizing the safety of Kansans in the future.

We respect the concern for the costs of a special session. But in this case, waiting until the regular session will mean more current cases will be sentenced under the reduced sentence and new cases may also result in the reduced sentence. The anticipated action by the legislature will be to amend the procedural methodology in Kansas statute for applying the hard 50 sentencing to comply with the Alleyne ruling.

We believe calling a special session for this matter is sound public safety policy and justifies the cost. It is our hope the special session would be very short and limited to this issue.

Sincerely,

Chief Sean Wallace
President