

January 26, 2016

**Re: Testimony on Senate Tax Committee Bill 332**

**Mission**

*To serve victims and their families while increasing awareness of the traumatic consequences of impaired driving through prevention, education, and community outreach.*

**Vision**

*To positively impact social perception of impaired driving, eliminating subsequent serious injury and death, to increase public safety.*

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Chairman Donovan and Committee Members,

The Kansas DUI Impact Center seeks your support for State sales tax exemption. This 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the only one of its kind in Kansas, has served Wichita and surrounding communities statewide since 1987. It is our mission to serve victims of vehicular crime committed under the influence of drugs and alcohol (DUI) with advocacy and support, while preventing future DUI crime by educating offenders convicted of DUI, and increasing awareness through education and community outreach in the interest of public safety. **The agency provided nearly 2,000 DUI victim services in 2015 and over 50,000 since its inception. Educational programming was given in schools and public forums to over 16,000 Kansans to increase awareness of impaired driving for improved public safety on the roadways we all travel daily. Approximately 3,000 convicted DUI offenders received prevention services at the Kansas DUI Impact during 2015.** We are a public service agency focused on preventing DUI crash related injuries and saving lives.

**We estimate that in 2015 the agency paid \$10-12,000 dollars in sales tax while purchasing goods and supplies used to serve DUI victims.** The need for DUI victim services is growing and our agency must continue to serve Kansans killed or seriously injured by impaired drivers. If exempted, those dollars will be used to serve people through support groups, advocacy, grief counseling, and crisis intervention. Please allow us to revert our sales taxes back into our community by providing a service no other agency can provide.

Your return of sales tax dollars is a modest investment in our agency that will manifest itself in City, County, and State savings as well as service to DUI victims and increased public safety. Impaired driving cost us all. In 2010, drunk driving alone accounted for 18% of the total economic loss from motor vehicle crashes, costing the economy as much as \$199 billion in direct and quality-of-life losses (NHTSA).

Private insurers pay approximately 50% of all motor vehicle crash costs. Individual crash victims pay about 26%, while third parties such as uninvolved motorists delayed in traffic, **charities like the Kansas DUI Impact Center and health care providers pay about 14%.** While federal, state and local municipalities pick up about 9%. Overall, those not directly involved in crashes pay for nearly three-quarters of all crash costs, primarily through insurance premiums, taxes and travel delay (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

**Beyond lost lives and painful injuries, the Kansas Department of Transportation reports that in 2013 accidents that involved alcohol cost Kansans \$504,966,550.** Across the United States the cost to federal, state, and local governments and taxpayers is approximately \$51 billion each year.

I implore you to allow us to better serve Kansans. Our contribution of service to victims, education to youth, and prevention programs for offenders is worth far more to the State of Kansas than our monetary sales taxes estimated at \$10-12,000 which we have already paid for 30 years.

**Taxing the Kansas DUI Impact Center doesn't make cents for Kansas, please support SB 332.**

Respectfully,

Andrie Krahle MBA  
Executive Director