

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on February 21, 2002 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department  
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes  
Marian F. Holeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Lowell Ramsey, Kansans for Life  
Russ Amerling, Choose Life, Inc.  
Senator John Vratil

Others attending: See attached list

**SB 624: Re special license plate: "Choose Life"**

Lowell D. Ramsey, J.D., Lobbyist for Kansans for Life, Inc., appeared in support of this bill request which is identical in nature to plates authorized for Children's Trust Fund and other "worthy causes." Income from the sale of these plates will be used to help 67 Centers around the state assist women in crisis pregnancy and to encourage adoptions (Attachment 1). Mr. Ramsey introduced one of his own three adopted daughters. He also introduced Mr. Russ Amerling who has been involved in getting the "Choose Life" license plate into the hands of the public in Florida and several other states.

Russ Amerling introduced his wife, Jill. They serve as National Publicity Coordinators for Choose Life, Inc. They came all the way from Ocala, Florida in order to testify in support of this bill. It has been a great revenue producers for their programs. The Florida design has been referred to as their organization's "national tag" (Attachment 2).

**SB 518: Re special license plate; Autism Society, Johnson Co.**

Senator Vratil appeared before the committee in support of this bill which also deals with a special license plate for a nonprofit organization, the Autism Society of Johnson County. Profit will be used to provide scholarships. Procedures for obtaining this plate would be the same as that for similar plates. Each organization works with Division of Motor Vehicles regarding the design and pays for the silk screen process. A minimum of 500 plates must be ordered before the issuance of such special plates. Senator Harrington moved to make necessary technical changes and amend SB 518 into SB 624. Senator Schroeder seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was some discussion regarding the necessity to continue hearing bills related to these requests for special license plates. It was felt that legislative input is very necessary regarding the kind and quantity of different plates acceptable in the state. A sudden large demand for such specialty plates could have unacceptable fiscal impact on the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2002.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
GUEST LIST

DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2002

NAME	REPRESENTING
Mike Huffles	Ks. Governmental Consulting
Russell Amerling	Choose Life Inc
Jill Amerling	" "
Buck	<del>DOT</del>
Diane Albert	KDOR - DMV
Sheela Walker	KDOR - DMV
Carla Mahony	PPKM

# LifeMatters

*In the Kansas Legislature*

Testimony of Lowell D. Ramsey, J.D.  
Lobbyist for Kansans For Life, Inc.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lowell Ramsey and I am appearing today on behalf of Kansans For Life in support of Senate Bill 624. I will be brief today because thankfully we are not breaking any new ground when we ask for your support of this legislation. Our bill is identical in nature to the license plates that you have authorized for the Children's Trust Fund and other worthy causes.

The *Choose Life* license will be used to provide a steady stream of income to help women in crisis pregnancy and to encourage adoption. We have identified sixty-seven Centers around the state that are engaged as their sole mission in helping women who find themselves in a crisis pregnancy. These Centers are shoe-string operations run by volunteers and funded by caring individuals and families. They provide everything from a friend to talk with to financial help. These centers provide support to women no matter whether they decide to carry to term or to abort. They provide free pregnancy testing, maternity clothes, financial planning, job search help, money for rent, transportation, free diapers and formula and countless other services. I have personally been on the board of such a Center for many years. Our goal with this license plate would be to help such Centers to fund their charitable work by providing a steady stream of income for their use.

Kansans For Life, as part of our mission, also want to encourage the "adoption option". The income from this license plate would also be used to educate the public of the tremendous beauty of adoption. Adoption is an experience

1-1

*For More  
Information Contact:*

*Lowell Ramsey, J.D.  
(785) 234-2998  
cell (785) 249-5500  
fax (785)234-2939*

*legislation@kfl.org*

*Kansans for Life  
919 S Kansas Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612*

**Kansans**   
*www.kfl.org* **forLife**

*State Affilia*

SENATE TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE -DATE: 2-21-02  
ATTACHMENT: 1

# LifeMatters

*In the Kansas Legislature*

*For More  
Information Contact:*

*Lowell Ramsey, J.D.  
(785) 234-2998  
cell (785) 249-5500  
fax (785)234-2939*

*legislation@kfl.org*

where something difficult and even, at times, heart-wrenching can be transformed into a beautiful outcome for the birth-mother and the child. For every adoptable infant there are at least fifty-thousand couples looking to adopt. As an attorney, I have helped facilitate many adoptions and am the proud parent of three adopted children. We, at Kansans For Life, want to be a part in helping expose the beauty of adoption as the best option for mother and child.

It is my pleasure also this morning to introduce Mr. Russ Amerling. Mr. Amerling, as the Publicity Coordinator for Choose Life, Inc. has been involved in Florida and other states in getting the *Choose Life* license plate into the hands of the public. Kansans For Life has asked Mr. Amerling to appear before the committee today and he graciously consented to travel a great distance to be here. Before he comes, I will stand for any questions you might have of me.

Again, we at Kansans For Life are not opening any new debate on the propriety of authorizing these types of license plates. We are following on the coat-tails of other charitable causes, like The Children's Trust Fund, that have sought approval by this esteemed body and found it. Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of Senate Bill 624.

Lowell D. Ramsey, J.D.  
Kansans For Life

*Kansans for Life  
919 S Kansas Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612*

*Kansans*   
*for Life*  
www.kfl.org

*State Affiliate of National Right to Life Committee*



1-2

# Florida Chronology

- CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE PLATES IN FLORIDA RAISE FUNDS TO **SUPPORT ADOPTION EFFORTS.**
- FLORIDA "CHOOSE LIFE" LICENSE PLATE BILL PASSED AND **SIGNED INTO LAW BY GOVERNOR JEB BUSH IN JUNE 1999.**
- LITIGATION FILED JUNE 1999 IN FEDERAL COURT... **CASE DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE DECEMBER 1999.**
- LITIGATION FILED DECEMBER 1999 IN STATE COURT... **CASE DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE DECEMBER 2001.**
- TAGS **RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC AUGUST 2000.**
- TOTAL TAG SALES **29,450**, RAISED OVER **\$820,000.00... TO DATE AND CURRENTLY RAISING OVER \$50,000.00 PER MONTH.**
- **MOST POPULAR TAG RELEASED IN FLORIDA SINCE 1998. CURRENTLY OUTSELLING 41 OF THE 53 SPECIALTY TAGS IN FLORIDA.**

RUSS & JILL AMERLING  
NATIONAL PUBLICITY COORDINATORS  
CHOOSE LIFE, INC.

[www.choose-life.org](http://www.choose-life.org)

877-454-1203

SENATE TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE -DATE: 2-21-02  
ATTACHMENT: 2

2-1