

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Hayzlett at 1:30 p.m. on February 11, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Jerry Henry- excused
Representative Jeff King- excused
Representative Gene Rardin - excused

Committee staff present:

Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Betty Boaz, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer
Representative Jim Morrison
Representative Lana Gordon
Representative Don Myers
Anita Wolgast, Chair, KS Arts Commission
Anne Evans, Advocacy Chair, KS Citizens for the Arts
Kathy Smith, Executive Director for Arts Commission
Carmen Alldritt, Director of Motor Vehicles, KS Dept. of Revenue
John Brehmankamp, Citizen from Colby, KS
Judith Dietz, Chairwoman with KS Gold Star Family Committee

Others attending:

See attached list.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15p.m.

Chairman Hayzlett opened the meeting by introducing Joe Erskine, Deputy Secretary of Transportation for Finance and Administration. Mr. Erskine continued Secretary Miller's presentation of yesterday. (Attachment #1, 2-10-09). He started with Transit and the map of the State of Kansas.

At the conclusion of Mr. Erskine's presentation the Chairman thanked him for all the information he had provided and then opened hearings on **HB2134**.

HB 2134 - Distinctive license plates; exempting In God We Trust plates from startup fee.

Chairman Hayzlett recognized Senator Ralph Ostmeyer as the first proponent for this bill. (Attachment #1) According to Senator Ostmeyer when this bill was passed last year an amendment to waive the fees was forgotten. So the exemption which was supposed to have been in the law last year is now being proposed. He said the initial cost for the plates is approximately \$13,000 and the requesters of the legislation passed last year are not recipients of any of the funds and do not have the funds individually to initiate the plate printing process. He concluded by asking the Committee's support of this bill.

Chairman recognized John Bremenkamp as the next proponent. (Attachment #2) Mr. Bremenkamp said they thought all that was needed was the 500 names which when word got out they had over 2,000 names. He asked the Committee to support **HB 2134** and let the tags get out and sold.

The Chairman recognized Representative Jim Morrison as the next proponent to speak to this bill. (Attachment #3) Representative Morrison said this plate is expected to be the most popular personalized plate ever made in Kansas. He said over 2,000 people have already requested plates but cannot get them as they

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Transportation Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 11, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

have not been printed. He said the State should realize a gross income of at least \$100,000 before the end of this fiscal year, which far exceeds their costs.

There were no other proponents.

The only opponent to this bill was Carmen Alldritt, Director of Division of Vehicles. (Attachment #4) According to Director Alldritt the Department of Revenue does not oppose any specialty plate but they are opposed to the lack of funding. She said the current law is inadequate and does not begin to cover the cost of these plates. Director Alldritt said the legislature needs to take a hard look at how these plates are financed and put a firm policy in place. She concluded by saying the DMV recommends that instead of considering specialty plate legislation on an individual basis, a policy be established in statute so that any group wishing a specialty plate can cover development costs through either a lump sum payment or advance orders made by deposit of the \$40 specialty plate fee in the distinctive license plate fund until development costs are covered.

There were no other opponents so after all questions were answered Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearings on HB 2134.

The Chairman opened hearings on HB 2130,

HB 2130 - Support Kansas arts license plate.

The Chairman recognized Representative Lana Gordon as the first proponent for this bill. (Attachment #5) According to Representative Gordon HB 2130 would help raise much needed funds to support the arts programs.

The next proponent was Anita Wolgast, Chair, Kansas Arts Commission. (Attachment #6) She said a number of other states currently have arts license plates with six of them reporting fiscal year revenue ranging from \$50,000 in New Hampshire to \$3,172,000 in California. Ms. Wolgast said any income is deeply important to the artists and arts organizations of Kansas.

Ann Evans, Advocacy Chair, Kansas Citizens for the Arts, was the next proponent. (Attachment #7) she said as a citizen of Kansas and the former director of the Lawrence Arts Center, she is in full support of HB 2130. She said the additional support for the arts will provide more funds to educate children and to reach senior citizens.

The Chairman recognized Kathy Smith, Executive Director, ARTSConnect, Topeka. (Attachment #8) She said this was an organization created by the Topeka Community Foundation in 2006 to help support and advocate for the arts in the Topeka and Shawnee County area. She said for every dollar invested in the nonprofit arts nationally, at least seven dollars are generated which means for this investment of private funds, at least seven times that much will be generated. She concluded that this was in addition to the visibility the license plate will create for the arts in Kansas.

There were no other proponents.

The only opponent was Carment Alldritt, Director of Motor Vehicle with the same concerns for this distinctive plate as the other distinctive plates. The Department of Revenue is not opposed to the plates, only to the lack of funding.

There were no other opponents so the Chairman closed the hearing on HB 2130 and opened hearings on HB 2138.

HB 2138 - Providing for the Kansas military family license plate.

The first proponent was Representative Don Myers. (Attachment #9) He said the request was made on behalf of the Gold Star Family Committee of Kansas, Judith Dietz, Chairwoman, who represents the many families who have lost family members in times of war. The request is that a specialized license plate be issued to all

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Transportation Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 11, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

families to honor their lost loved ones. He asked the Committee to support **HB 2138**.

The Chairman recognized Judith Dietz, Chairwoman of the Kansas Gold Star Family Committee. (Attachment #10) She provided the Committee with the background of her request. Her father was killed in Vietnam in 1968. Ms. Dietz showed the Committee a Gold Star Family license plate from the State of Ohio. She was very opposed to the idea of a decal, she thought it was insensitive, insulting and disrespectful. Ms. Dietz said she had been working with Mr. Stabbs, Commander of the American Legion, in Mulvane, KS. She concluded by saying the Gold Star Family Committee of Kansas and the Veterans of Kansas strongly oppose the decal portion of **HB 2138**. They want to have a "stand alone" bill introduced to authorize Gold Star Family license plates.

There were no other proponents or opponents to **HB 2138** except Carmen Alldritt, Director of Motor Vehicles, based on lack of funding. Chairman Hayzlett closed the hearing on **HB 2138**.

It was the Chairman's desire to work **HB 2131** so he opened it up for questions, discussions and motions. Representative Menghini made a motion to favorably pass **HB 2131**, seconded by Representative Swanson and the motion carried.

The Chairman opened **HB 2135** for questions, discussion and motions. Representative Burgess made a motion to favorably pass **HB 2135**, seconded by Representative Menghini. Questions and discussion followed. Several members expressed concern with this bill. The motion failed.

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 11, 2009

NAME	REPRESENTING
Tom Whitaker	KMCA
Judith Dietz	^{Chairwoman -} Gold Star Family Committee
Kelly DiRocco	Little Gov. Relations
JOE ERSKINE	KDOT
Patrick D. Wurlay	Economic Lifelines
Bob Cotton	Ks Construction Assoc
Llewellyn Crain	Kansas Arts Commission
BRUCE BURDITT	KDOT
Keel W. Davis	KDOT
Ann Evans	Kansas Citizens for the Arts
Frank Walgett	KAC
VE Drago	United Transportation Union
Whitey Jam	Ks Auto Sales Assoc
TRAVIS LOVE	Dnegri, Smith & Assoc
Sean Miller	CAPITOL STRATEGIES
Wendy Malburn	KAPA - KMCA

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: February 11, 2009

NAME	REPRESENTING
Jay R. Garretson	Self
Paul Beal	Self

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

RALPH OSTMEYER

SENATOR, 40TH DISTRICT

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GRINNELL, KS 67738-0097

STATE CAPITOL

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VICE-CHAIR: AGRICULTURE
MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
AND REGULATIONS

Testimony

In Support of

HB 2134: "In GOD We Trust" License Plate

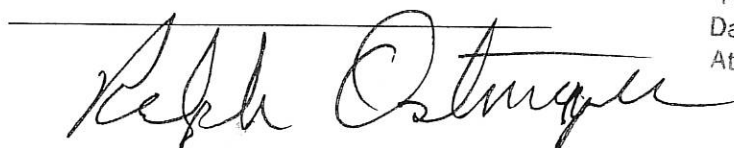
Good afternoon, Chairman Hayzlett and members of the Transportation Committee.

I am here in support of amendments to HB 2134, also referred to as the "In GOD We Trust" license plate. The Legislation passed last year, but an expected amendment to waive the fees for the initial run of plates was forgotten. It was assumed that since the State of Kansas was the recipient of ALL the funds generated through this personalized plate that the cost could be borne by the agency.

Well, the economy crashed and that turned out not to be the case, so this exemption, which was supposed to have been in the law last year, is now being proposed. The initial cost for the plates is approximately \$13,000.00. The requestors of the legislation passed last year are not recipients of any of the funds and simply do not have the funds individually to initiate the plate printing process.

This plate is expected to be the most popular personalized plate ever made in Kansas. Over 2,000 people have already requested plates but cannot get them as they have not been printed. The state will realize the initial \$13,000.00 required with the first 350 plates sold. Four hundred of the plates are already "sold" to individuals on a special list of those getting the first 400 numbers from 1-400. The State should realize a gross income of at least \$100,000.00 before the end of this fiscal year, which far exceeds their costs, so they would actually realize a profit by printing and selling these plates as soon as possible.

So, I would appreciate your supporting the bill with the exemption as presented and devise a way to "loan" the agency the seed money it needs to print the first plates right away. Thank you for your attention. I will stand for questions.



House Transportation
Date: 2-11-09
Attachment # 1

February 11, 2009

Testimony to the House Transportation Committee

By John Bremenkamp, Colby

My name is John Bremenkamp; I live in Colby, Kansas, and am here in support of HB 2134.

I am sorry that Francis Landry could not be here today. He and his wife Geri have invested a lot of time in this project.

We were surprised to find that we were having another hearing. Francis was told that all that was needed was a commitment from 500 people to purchase "In God We Trust" tags. With notices in only three papers, their phone started ringing, and in a very short time they had 500 names. The phone kept ringing, and soon they had sent 2000 names to the State. (Many of these 2000 wanted more than one tag.). The State finally asked that the Landrys not send any more names.

Francis and Geri then recorded a message on their answering machine letting people know that they had enough names; they expected the tags to be available in early 2009. People are now calling and asking when they can get the tags. About a month ago Francis received a sample of the plate and approved it. At this point we thought everything was complete.

I think it is time that something is done to get this tag out. If you consider the math, if only 2000 tags are purchased, that is \$80,000. If every Senator and Representative were to e-mail their constituents, who knows how many tags could be sold before the end of this fiscal year.

I am asking for your support of HB 2134. Thank you for the time you have given me to testify today.

Respectfully,



John Bremenkamp

House Transportation
Date: 2-11-09
Attachment # 2

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

- Chairman**
Governmental Efficiency and Technology
- Member**
Health and Human Services
- Member**
Joint Committee on Information Technology
- Member**
Health Care Stabilization Committee

Testimony In Support of HB 2134: "In GOD We Trust" License Plate

Good afternoon, Chairman Hayzlett and members of the Transportation Committee.

I am here in support of amendments to HB 2134, also referred to as the "In GOD We Trust" license plate. The Legislation passed last year, but an expected amendment to waive the fees for the initial run of plates was forgotten. It was assumed that since the State of Kansas was the recipient of ALL the funds generated through this personalized plate that the cost could be borne by the agency.

Well, the economy crashed and that turned out not to be the case, so this exemption, which was supposed to have been in the law last year, is now being proposed. The initial cost for the plates is approximately \$13,000.00. The requestors of the legislation passed last year are not recipients of any of the funds and simply do not have the funds individually to initiate the plate printing process.

This plate is expected to be the most popular personalized plate ever made in Kansas. Over 2,000 people have already requested plates but cannot get them as they have not been printed. The state will realize the initial \$13,000.00 required with the first 350 plates sold. Four hundred of the plates are already "sold" to individuals on a special list of those getting the first 400 numbers from 1-400. The State should realize a gross income of at least \$100,000.00 before the end of this fiscal year, which far exceeds their costs, so they would actually realize a profit by printing and selling these plates as soon as possible.

So, I would appreciate your supporting the bill with the exemption as presented and devise a way to "loan" the agency the seed money it needs to print the first plates right away. Thank you for your attention. I will stand for questions.

Representative Jim Morrison

www.morrisonfamily.com jmorriso@ink.org

House Transportation
Date: 2-11-09
Attachment # 3

TO: Chairman Gary Hayzlett
Members of the House Transportation Committee

FROM: Carmen Alldritt, Director
Division of Vehicles

DATE: February 11, 2009

SUBJECT: Specialty License Plates

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. My name is Carmen Alldritt, and I serve as the Director of Vehicles for the Kansas Department of Revenue.

Today's cost to produce and deliver to the county a standard auto license plate is \$2.32. Specialty license plates are running as high as \$6.21. Motorcycle plates are actually higher and run \$3.14 for the standard plate and up to \$6.51 for a specialty design. Specialty plates include the universities, firefighters, etc.

The legislature attempted to establish a policy in 2004 requiring groups or sponsors requesting a specialty plate, to pay up to \$10,000 to cover the cost of developing their plate. Specialty plates also require a one-time plate fee of \$40.00. Since 2004 various bills have been enacted exempting some specialty plates from one or both parts of either of these fees.

For years the Department and the public have absorbed the cost of license plates and the additional expense incurred with development and issuance of specialty plates. The DMV cannot continue to absorb these costs and push development costs onto the Highway Fund. We only charge fifty cents for a license plate. Development cost has gone from \$8,000 in 2004 to over \$13,000 today.

The Department does not oppose any specialty plate but we do oppose the lack of funding. Current law is inadequate and does not begin cover the cost of these plates. The legislature needs to take a good hard look at how these plates are financed and put a firm policy in place.

The DMV recommends that instead of considering specialty plate legislation on an individual basis, a policy be established in statute so that any group wishing a specialty plate can cover development costs (to be determined upon approval of final design) through: (1) lump sum payment, or (2) advance orders made by deposit of the \$40 specialty plate fee in the distinctive license plate fund until development costs are covered. In both circumstances, customers would also pay the actual cost of producing individual tags in addition to the one-time \$40 specialty plate fee.

Thank you, and I stand for questions.

House Transportation
Date: 2-11-09
Attachment # 4

STATE OF KANSAS

LANA GORDON
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STATE CAPITOL—RM. 142-W
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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
MEMBER: COMMERCE AND LABOR
EDUCATION BUDGET
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ARTS & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Dear Chairman Hayzlett and members of the House Transportation Committee:

HB 2130 would allow the Kansas Arts Commission to have a license plate created to help support the arts.

As with other organizations that have plates in their name, this one would help raise much needed funds to support their programs. Here today to address the bill are Llewellyn Crain and Anita Wolgast. I will let them explain the details.

Thank you for allowing us to come before the committee. I would appreciate your support of HB 2130.

House Transportation
Date: 2-11-09
Attachment # 5

Anita Wolgast, Chair, Kansas Arts Commission
Testimony to Support House Bill 2130
House Transportation Committee
February 4, 2009

As the chair of the Kansas Arts Commission, I speak for the Commissioners who wholeheartedly support House Bill Number 2130, which allows for a Kansas Arts license plate.

A number of other states currently have arts license plates, with six of them reporting fiscal year revenue ranging from \$50,000 (New Hampshire, a state with a population of just over 1 million) to \$3,172,000 in California.

The Kansas Arts Commission's expectations are more modest, with anticipated revenues of \$12,500 to \$50,000. However, that income is deeply important to the artists and arts organizations of Kansas, which are used to accomplishing a great deal with few dollars. In the current fiscal year, the Kansas Arts Commission has given out 328 grants for a total of \$1,625,806, with an average grant of just under \$5,000. We have received almost 500 applications for funding this year.

The Kansas Arts Commission will soon release the results of a statewide economic impact study. Preliminary results indicate that the nonprofit arts industry in Kansas is a 153 million dollar industry.

The initial investment for the license plate of \$10,000 will be contributed from a variety of sources, including past and current Commissioners. We have \$3,000 committed funds and anticipate being able to raise the additional amount through the summer.

The Commissioners first discussed the arts license plate at its September meeting. Then at a gathering of 75 arts supporters and advocates in October, there was unanimous support for the activities of the Kansas Arts Commission and a strong endorsement of the arts license plate concept.

We are grateful to the support of Representative Lana Gordon, who chairs the economic development and tourism committee and serves on the Joint Committee of Arts and Culture, for her initial work on this bill, as well as to Representative Mike Burgess who introduced it.

We have here today Ann Evans, a former Commissioner, former executive director of the Lawrence Arts Center and the advocacy chair for Kansas Citizens for the Arts, and Kathy Smith, executive director of ARTSConnect in Topeka, who will speak to you. Llewellyn Crain, the executive director of the Kansas Arts Commission, is also here to answer your questions.

House Transportation
Date: 2-11-09
Attachment # 10

**Ann Evans, Advocacy Chair, Kansas Citizens for the Arts
Testimony to Support House Bill 2130
House Transportation Committee
February 4, 2009**

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Kansas Citizens for the Arts represents the audiences and supporters of the arts throughout the state. We advocate for the arts in communities and in education through direct action, such as our upcoming Arts Day at the Capitol on March 4, and advocacy education.

As a citizen of Kansas and the former director of the Lawrence Arts Center, I speak in full support of an arts license plate, House Bill 2130.

Additional support for the arts will provide more funds to educate children and to reach senior citizens.

Studies have shown that children who participate in the arts have higher test scores and receive higher grades than those who do not. They are more involved in school, have higher attendance rates, exhibit more empathy and self-control and are better prepared for the 21st century workforce.

A multi-year study conducted by Dr. Gene Cohen of the George Washington University Medical Center found that senior citizens who participate in weekly arts programs have better health, visit the doctor less frequently and use less medication than seniors who do not.* For those of us who are looking to reduce health care costs, the implications are huge.

In Kansas, as our population ages and needs increase, support for organized arts activities will result in a citizenry that is more engaged and involved and has less strain on the network of social health care services.

I ask you to support House Bill 2130.

Thank you for your attention.

* Source: Americans for the Arts, *Creativity Matters: Arts and Aging in America*

House Transportation
Date: 2-11-09
Attachment # 7

**Kathy Smith, Executive Director, ARTSConnect, Topeka
Testimony to Support House Bill 2130
House Transportation Committee**

February 4, 2009

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of House Bill 2130.

I am the executive director of ARTSConnect. ARTSConnect is an organization created by the Topeka Community Foundation in 2006 to help support and advocate for the arts in the Topeka and Shawnee County area. Topeka leadership recognized that for Topeka to become a truly great city and to attract business and industry, it was important for there to be a mechanism for supporting the arts.

The arts are important to all our communities. The arts create jobs, make it possible to recruit and retain employees to communities, and make our cities livable and attractive places to live and work.

Recent economic impact studies have shown that in cities such as Salina, the nonprofit arts generated over 23.7 million dollars in local economic activity, delivering more than \$2 million in local and state government revenues.

In Wichita, the nonprofit arts generated over 49 million dollars in local economic activity, supporting 1,512 full-time jobs, and delivering more than 4.76 million dollars in local and state government revenues.

For every dollar invested in the nonprofit arts nationally, at least seven dollars are generated. That means, for *this* investment of private funds, at least seven times that much will be generated.

This is in addition to the visibility the license plate will create for the arts in Kansas.

Please support House Bill 2130.

Thank you.

House Transportation
Date: 2-11-09
Attachment # 8

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

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STATE CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 448-N
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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIRPERSON: VETERANS, MILITARY & HOMELAND
SECURITY
MEMBER: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM
ENERGY AND UTILITIES

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AS A PROPONENT OF
HB 2138 - Providing for the Kansas military family license plate**

The chairman of Gold Star Family Committee of Kansas, Judith Dietz, has made this request on behalf of families who have lost family members in times of war. The Gold Star Family Committee of Kansas represents the many families who find themselves in a similar situation.

The request is that a specialized license plate be issued to allow families to honor their lost loved ones.

I support the HB-2138 as means to recognize the desire of family members who have been left behind by the loss of one of their family in an act of defending our freedoms.

Thank you for considering this House Bill and I ask for your favorable vote.

Don Myers
State Representative
Dist. 82

House Transportation
Date: 2-11-09
Attachment # 9

Testimony before House Transportation Committee, February 11, 2009

Thank your Mr. Chairman and Committee Members; I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony on HB-2138 on behalf of the Fallen Warriors, Gold Star Family Committee of Kansas, the Gold Star Families of Kansas, the Blue Star Families of Kansas, the active duty Military, and the Veterans and their families of Kansas.

My name is Judith Dietz (Nicholson), I am Chairwoman of the Kansas Gold Star Family Committee and was wanting a Gold Star Family license plate for the Gold Star Families here in Kansas.

I too am a Gold Star Family member. My father **Army Platoon Sergeant Glenn E. Nicholson**, was killed in action, in Gia Din Province, Vietnam May 5, 1968, while serving with the 11th Armored Cavalry (Blackhorse) Regiment. Dad died from multiple fragmentation wounds after being hit directly by a Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) while bringing a wounded Trooper into his armored vehicle.

We lived in Schilling Manor AFB at the time. I can remember so distinctively when the Staff car pulled up to our house. Mom was getting us children ready for school. Which was quite a chore being that there were eight of us to contend with. Mom had just plugged in the coffee pot; she looked out the kitchen window when she seen the Staff car pull up to the house. **She yelled, "Oh my God, No!"** All us children asked what was going on and about that time she answered the door and was told Dad had been fatally wounded.

I can remember all us kids yelling and screaming, "No, No, No". The tears falling down the faces of eight children was very hard on our Mom. The oldest was Mickey 16, Grant 13, Jeannette 11, Judith 9, Jackie 7, David 6, Scott 3 and Keith 1.

We were raised to be very proud of our Father. This personal experience has affected us all very much through the years. Here it is 41 years later, we just recently buried our Mom (Emilie) on November 30, 2008.

I had told Mom about the article I had read in "Thunder Run" about how Ohio got Gold Star Family license plates. I told her I want to do this for us here in Kansas. To HONOR Dad and other "Fallen Warriors". I carried that article around for the longest time. Than after Mom's passing I got the courage up to email Mr. Richard Stobbs, Chairman-Ohio Gold Star Family Committee from the email address he had in the article.

House Transportation
Date: 2-11-09
Attachment # 10

My connection with the Military ended that day in May 1968 ... that day I became a member of the Gold Star Families.

Before I go any farther, I would like to ask how many members of this committee have served in the Military? Thank you.

- At this time I would like to show you what a Gold Star Family license plate looks like ... here is a Gold Star Family license plate from the State of Ohio.

I would like to point out a few things to help you to better understand the importance of the Gold Star Families:

Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force men and women who give their lives for their country in a combat zone while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force are known as **Fallen Warriors**.

The immediate families of Fallen Warriors are known as **Gold Star Families**.

Public Law 534 and DD Form 3, Feb 2000, define the Wars and Operations that qualify for the DOD Gold Star Lapel Button. Representatives, I must point out that HB-2138 does not comply with Public Law 534 ... it recognizes situations that do not meet the criteria of Public Law 534.

HB – 2138, section (e) ... “military family license plate” ... does not meet the criteria set by the Gold Star Family Committee; it is not Gold Star Family.

HB – 2138, section (f) does not meet the criteria set by the Gold Star Family Committee:

- 1 – it is not a license plate, but merely a decal
2. – it is not a Gold Star Family license plate
3. – you cannot mix Military and Gold Star Family

Ladies and Gentlemen, I live in Derby, Kansas, not too far from Representative Myers. I offered to meet with him on three separate occasions to show him the Ohio Gold Star Family license plate we have and some other material ... Representative Myers did not call me and was never available to meet with me. There is no way Representative Myers could fully understand this issue without looking at the material.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my Father and many Fallen Warriors before and after him have given their lives so that we are Free to live in this great Country and this

Great State, and all we are asking for is a License Plate, not a second rate “add on” decal. The Gold Star Family license plates will be Moving Memorial to the Fallen Warriors of Kansas.

We feel that this HB – 2138 “decal” is insensitive, insulting and disrespectful ... I could never put anything like this on my car after my Father gave his life for his country ... I know what it means when you say, “Freedom is not free!”

- Please let the record show that the Gold Star Family Committee of Kansas, the Gold Star Families of Kansas, and the Veterans of Kansas **strongly oppose HB – 2138.** We want this bill to die.
- We want to have a NEW “stand alone “ bill introduced to authorize Gold Star Family license plates in the State of Kansas.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today.

Judith Dietz (Nicholson)

Chairwoman

Kansas Chapter – Gold Star Family Committee

(316) 789-9688