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**Testimony to the House Transportation Committee
In Support of SB142
March 7, 2024**

Chairman Francis and Committee Members:

Our associations stand in support of SB142, a traffic safety bill requiring traffic to slow or move over when approaching a vehicle on the side of the road displaying hazard warning lamps or devices.

The bill is designed to distinguish between a vehicle merely stopped or parked along the roadside and a vehicle alongside the roadway where it is likely people will be present. The bill limits the application to those situations where the vehicle is displaying hazard warning lights or other warning devices. These are situations where it is highly likely there are people in or around the vehicle frequently while attempting to fix a problem or awaiting assistance.

Crashes involving vehicles stopped under these conditions being struck by passing vehicles, or worse striking a person outside such a vehicle, are not rare events. These are generally violent crashes resulting in injury or death.

Passage of this bill will also create consistency in the rules of what is expected of drivers when approaching any vehicle stopped on the roadside displaying warning lights or devices. Over the past several years several bills have been enacted on specific purpose types of vehicles, such as, utility trucks, trash trucks, etc. This bill will bring consistency in driver behavior because it applies to a readily visible indicator around any vehicle displaying warning signals or devices, and not dependent upon the less distinguishable design or purpose of the vehicle.

It is our belief that passage of this bill will enhance safety on our roads and highways and reduce traffic crashes, injuries and deaths. We encourage you to move this bill forward with a favorable recommendation to pass.

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