



To: House Committee on Transportation
From: Travis Lowe
AAA Kansas
Date: February 27, 2025
Re: Support of SB 8

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer remarks in support of SB 8.

I am Travis Lowe appearing on behalf of AAA Kansas. Since AAA's founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax-paying organization has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. AAA proudly serves over 350,000 Kansans. On behalf of AAA, we would like to thank you for the opportunity to offer support for legislation that will improve road safety for auto drivers as well as those maintaining Kansas roads.

SB 8 works to protect both drivers who are stranded on the side of the highway dealing with a disabled vehicle and other drivers on the road.

By disabled vehicles, we are referring to vehicles on the side of the highway that are displaying hazard warning signal lamps, road flares or caution signals, including traffic cones, caution signs or reflective triangles.

It is very common to see disabled vehicles on the side of a highway. The drivers and occupants may be changing a tire, the hood is propped open, possibly waiting for a tow truck. Whatever the case, this applies to vehicles with people inside or outside their vehicle waiting for help.

SB 8 says if a driver is on a two-lane highway and comes upon a disabled vehicle, the driver must proceed with caution by slowing down as they pass the disabled vehicle. The bill language states that if the driver is on a multi-lane highway, like an interstate, and comes upon a disabled vehicle, the driver needs to switch to the opposite lane(s), if possible, or slow down as they pass the disabled vehicle.

This may sound like common sense but sadly, disabled vehicles are not protected within the current Kansas 'Move Over' laws, and we have seen the consequences.

Kansas crash statistics show in just five years from 2018-2023 resulted with 10 fatalities, averaging two to three deaths a year. In the same time period, 994 empty vehicles were struck while on the side of road. Additionally, 82 crashes occurred with someone in a vehicle while on the side of road during this same time period. This averages nearly 200 crashes a year.

Kansas already has a “slow down or move over” law for emergency vehicles, tow trucks, utility and maintenance vehicles. But not for “disabled vehicles.”

This bill, however, does not apply to a vehicle left unattended on the side of the road. Those vehicles are usually marked by law enforcement with an orange tag to be towed.

We appreciate the House’s support of this bill during the 2024 session. Last session, this language was part of SB 142, which was passed on the House floor three times but stalled in conference committee due to other policy issues.

For this session, SB 8 was approved by Senate 39-0, earlier this month.

We respectfully urge your support of the bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this matter and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.

Respectfully,

Travis Lowe