

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 8
RELATING TO THE UNIFORM FINE SCHEDULE FOR TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS**

January 23, 2024

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Catherine Magaña, and I am Legislative Policy Analyst for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide testimony about Senate Bill 8. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and to provide comments.

KDOT is in support of this bill as it relates to safety on our roadways. If a vehicle is in a crash or disabled on the side of the road, the people in or around this vehicle are vulnerable road users or pedestrians that could be killed or injured if struck by another vehicle. A stationary vehicle on the side of road is also an object that could be struck by another vehicle and therefore, puts that driver and passengers at a higher risk of death or injury. KDOT strives to improve the safety and quality of life for the traveling public by reducing the number of motor vehicle fatalities, injuries, and crashes.

Kansas crash statistics show that from 2018-2023 on the state system, 994 empty vehicles were struck while on the side of road. These crashes resulted in 8 fatalities, 25 suspected serious injuries, 211 possible or minor injuries and 803 property damage only crashes. Additionally, 82 crashes occurred with someone in a vehicle while on the side of road on the state system during this same timeperiod. These crashes resulted in 2 fatalities, 4 suspected serious injuries, 60 possible or minor injuries and 42 property damage only crashes.

This proposed legislation will enhance the current move over statutes to now include every passenger vehicle that is stopped or disabled on the side of the road displaying hazard warning signal lamps, road flares or caution signals. This enhancement will also make it easier to educate the driving public as now all drivers will be required to move over or slow down if there is a vehicle on the side of the road with flashing lights. This bill supports the agency's Drive to Zero mission of reducing death and injury on Kansas roads by providing another tool to protect those people and vehicles either stranded or disabled on the side of the road, making us all safer on Kansas Roads.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 8. I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.