

February 1, 2012

Chairman Umbarger and Committee Members:

Good morning! My name is Tom Holland and I am the State Senator for the Kansas Senate 3rd District serving portions of Douglas and Leavenworth counties and all of Jefferson County. I am here today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 342.

I have become interested in this issue as a result of a significant number of fatal crossover median crashes that have occurred in or near Eudora on Kansas state highway K-10, the most recent being a crossover median double fatality accident on April 16th, 2011 that took the life of a 5 year old boy, Cainan Schutt. I subsequently participated in a number of K-10 Cable Committee meetings where local citizens, leaders from Douglas and Johnson counties and representatives from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) met to discuss the potential causes of these accidents and what could be done to prevent/reduce the possibility of such accidents from happening in the future. The committee made a motion at its August 16th meeting to have K-10 between Lawrence and Kansas City designated as a Highway Safety Corridor.

I believe that the majority of these accidents are related to driver inattention. A safety corridor program such as the one KDOT is proposing would be beneficial in alerting drivers that they are entering a high accident area. The safety corridor program will encourage drivers to pay attention, slow down, and most importantly save lives.

Sincerely,

Tom Holland
State Senator – 3rd District