

REP. GAIL FINNEY

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**STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



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HOUSE BILL NO. 2009 / PROPONENT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2013



**COMMITTEE
ASSIGNMENTS**

**CORRECTIONS
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RANKING DEMOCRAT

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VISION 20/20**
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POLICY MEMBER

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

**COUNCIL OF STATE
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**NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF
STATE LEGISLATORS**

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
MEMBER
BUSINESS, FINANCIAL
SERVICES
& INSURANCE
MEMBER

Greetings Chairman Proehl, House Transportation Committee Members, and guests attending today's hearing on HB2009 concerning restricted driving privileges in lieu of suspension.

As the sponsor and a strong supporter of House Bill 2009, I am in full support of giving our citizens sufficient time and the opportunity to redeem their driving privileges. This bill reinstates and extends the sunset date to Jan. 1, 2016 for a restricted drivers license. It allows someone who has failed to comply with a traffic citation by either not appearing in court, paying all of their fines in full, or paying all of their court costs in full, the opportunity to have a restricted driver's license in lieu of their license being completely suspended.

HB2009 offers a Kansas driver the opportunity to go to and from work, school, drug or alcohol counseling or any place the person is required to go by a court for a period up to a year. Without this legislative relief, some of our less fortunate and economically disadvantaged citizens are basically remanded to their home (a form of house arrest) or are forced to continually break traffic laws by driving without a driver's license and/or auto insurance just to go to work or school.

Unfortunately, this is a vicious cycle that continues to worsen for those who are economically distraught and caught up in our legal system. Generally, when someone is issued a traffic citation they are required to pay a hefty fine within a matter of days, or take off from work and go to court to beg for mercy and/or some type of relief. And, if you are unaware of unable to attend court, or unable to pay the fine, you get caught in a frustrating cycle of ever increasing fines and penalties that you were unable to pay in the first place.

Because most cities in Kansas including Wichita do not have an extended mass transportation system for people to get around any time of day, it makes it difficult for people with suspended licenses to get around. Subsequently, people affected by this unending cycle have been relegated to a second class citizenship, causing them to only have a Kansas Identification card and in a lot of cases making them more of a criminal. When you are unable to get around, but are required to go to work and or school it makes it very difficult to succeed.

By passing this bill it will at least offer a substantial remedy to help some of our affected citizens successfully turn their life around.

Respectfully,

Representative Gail Finney
Kansas House of Representatives 84th District