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Testimony
House Committee on Judiciary
HB 2198
February 10, 2105

TOM PHILLIPS
67TH DISTRICT

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members

I appear before the Committee today in support of HB 2198. This past summer I met KSU Student Body President Reagan Kays and he talked to me about the serious dangers of binge and underage drinking. The unfortunate reality is that binge drinking can lead to severe health complications or even death. This is serious matter on college campus across the nation.

Underage drinking is also occurring within our high school age population, and some say it is showing up in our middle schools. As uncomfortable as it may be to acknowledge this behavior exists in our communities, the fact is it does, and young people are at risk.

This legislation is intended to let a minor who believes a friend's life is endangered call the EMS or police and request medical assistance due to alcohol consumption. The minor who placed the call then becomes immune from criminal prosecution for a violation of minor in possession of alcohol.

Our hope is that with passage of this bill young people will not be inhibited to call the police or EMS and report a life-threatening situation.

Once Mr. Kays prepared a draft bill, I encouraged him to discuss the bill with our Riley County Chief of Police, KSU Chief of Police and Riley County Attorney to seek their advice. From the very start, we sought to be inclusive of law enforcement, EMS, prosecutors, and the Kansas Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

I ask for your due consideration of this important legislation.

Thank you,

Representative Tom Phillips