

Written Testimony on House Bill 2157

House Committee on Transportation

Presented by the

Kansas State Troopers Association

February 10, 2015

Chairman Proehl and members of the Committee. Thank you for considering comments regarding HB2157 from the Kansas State Troopers Association. The KSTA stands with the other supporters of this measure in increasing the existing fine relating to the use of safety belts, and the creation of the seat belt safety fund.

Members of the KSTA have chosen keeping the citizens of Kansas safe as their career and daily mission. The increase in the fine for violations of the law related to seat belt usage will indicate to the motoring public that policy makers in the state of Kansas take this violation seriously, and have determined that an its increase is appropriate. Education on the importance of seat belt usage is equally important, if not more so, in increasing compliance and saving lives.

Therefore, the establishment of the seat belt safety fund for “the purpose of promotion and education of occupant protection among children, including, but not limited to, programs in schools in Kansas” is the other logical and laudable goal of House Bill 2157.

The charitable arm of the KSTA, the Kansas Troopers Foundation, has recently funded two scholarships for the SAFE program in keeping with the education efforts that this bill contemplates. The SAFE program has been incredibly successful in increasing teen seat belt usage and reducing teen deaths resulting from failure to use seat belts. SAFE is proof that education of the public works, particularly in the teen population, giving further validity to the establishment of a seat belt safety fund.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments.