



**Kansas Association
of Chiefs of Police**

PO Box 780603
Wichita, KS 67278
(316) 733-7300

**Kansas Peace
Officers Association**

PO Box 2592
Wichita, KS 67201
(316) 722-8433



**House Transportation Committee
Testimony in Support of SB274
March 9, 2016**

Rep. Proehl, Chairman
Committee Members

This testimony is in support of sections 1-4 of SB274 as it passed the Senate last year. We are not opining on section 5 of the bill pertaining to sail boats.

There is no question the strengthening of the seatbelt laws several years ago has been a part of the successful reduction of fatalities and serious injuries in Kansas. But there is still work to be done. This bill is the next step in further reducing this unnecessary loss of life and devastating injuries which too often lead to long term or permanent disabilities.

This bill focuses on the safety of our driving age children. This bill represents a well balanced approach focusing on a proven program Kansas born high school safety program, SAFE (Seatbelts Are For Everyone). SAFE is aimed at teen drivers, generally of high school age. The program has proven effective in increasing seatbelt usage and reducing teen fatalities and disabling injuries in areas where it has been adopted. The passage of this bill will expand the SAFE Program into as many high schools in Kansas as possible and continue the program in currently participating schools. The bill moderately increases the fine for adult seatbelt violations. These additional fine receipts are then diverted into a fund to support the SAFE program.

The proposed higher fine is consistent with many other states and this bill retains the no court cost provision. The higher fine will not only fund the expanded SAFE program, but there is no doubt the higher fine will also positively impact adult seatbelt compliance, further reducing deaths and serious injuries.

Our associations support this approach and we strongly encourage you to recommend SB274 favorably for passage.

Ed Klumpp
Ks Association of Chiefs of Police - Legislative Committee Chair
Ks Peace Officers Association – Legislative Liaison
eklumpp@cox.net
Phone: (785)640-1102