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Written Testimony

Date: February 10, 2015

To: Kansas Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Dave Johnston, President Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA)

Reg: SB 133, Immunity from liability for minor seeking medical assistance needed due to alcohol consumption

The Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA) is the professional association representing the paramedics, EMT's and ambulance service's serving the citizens of Kansas. KEMSA works on various regulatory and legislative matters as well as conferences and educational programs.

While KEMSA does not take a position regarding the aspect of how to best deal with the issues related with minors and drinking KEMSA is concerned about the possible impact the changes in the traffic fines might have regarding some important EMS grants funded by the revenues created by those traffic fines.

Each year over \$300,000 is provided in small grants to EMS services and regional EMS groups around Kansas from the funds generated by traffic fines. These KRAF grants fund equipment and training that cannot be funded through other means. Local ambulance service budgets are challenged by decreasing federal Medicare payments, terrible state Medicaid payment rates, and pressure on local government budgets which typically subsidize emergency services.

The KRAF grants distribute funds to support small EMS operations without the administrative fees and overhead which classic grant programs must fund. The KRAF grants are very important to the EMS services in Kansas and efficiently administered in order to assure that the maximum dollars reach the point of service and are not lost in the grant administration process.

As you consider HB 133 please consider what steps might be taken to protect this important funding source.

Dave Johnston