



*Sedgwick County...
working for you*

Sedgwick County Treasurer

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To: Committee on Appropriations
From: Linda Kizzire, Sedgwick County Treasurer
Date: February 9, 2017
Re: House Bill 2068

Mr. Chairman and Members Committee on Appropriations:

I am offering written testimony in opposition of House Bill 2068. This Bill will make changes to Kansas Statute 8-173 which currently sets the requirements for vehicle title registrations and registration renewals. The proposed changes would not allow for a title registration or registration renewal of a vehicle to an applicant if arrearages are owed to the Department of Children and Families.

The proposed changes would result in the following:

- Little, if any, additional child support would be collected.
- Fewer people would be registering their vehicles.
- An increase in traffic citations for failing to register their vehicles.
- An increase in convictions for failing to register their vehicles.
- An increase in suspended drivers licenses due to failing to register their vehicles.
- An increase in convictions for driving on suspended drivers licenses.
- An increase in inmate population due to mandatory sentencing on that offense.

The State of Kansas has a federally funded program to offset debt for delinquent child support. It directly follows "Past Due Taxes" on the priority list of claims. This same system collects more each year on Sedgwick County cases alone than this bill will likely collect statewide during the same time frame.

I would offer that a person will have more difficulty keeping their child support payments current if they cannot drive their vehicle to work as a result of not being permitted to tag their vehicle for being behind on child support payments. The same holds true if the person's driver's license is suspended.

The proposed changes will require excessive manual work to be performed and constant monitoring. This process will impact 107 taxing authorities in Sedgwick County, since we will not be registering or

renewing vehicles for individuals that owe delinquent child support. The extra duties outlined in this Bill will require additional personnel and office space/workstations/computer equipment. The cost to the County to meet the requirements of this Bill will be substantial. We will not be able to offset these charges with additional fees.

In closing, the purpose of the County Treasurer's Office is to collect taxes, not to turn taxpayers away because they are delinquent in non-tax related situations. As an elected official, my goal is to provide accurate, efficient tax related service to my constituents. I was elected to serve the citizens of Sedgwick County, not as a collection agency for the State of Kansas. I see this legislation as a cumbersome and expensive process, which will not benefit the majority of tax payers in Sedgwick County. Please do not support this change.

Thank you.

Linda Kizzire, Sedgwick County Treasurer