

Testimony in Support of SB 144
March 16, 2017

Chairperson Proehl, Vice-Chairperson Francis, Ranking Minority Member Lusker and the House Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony in support of SB 144 which would prohibit the use of wireless communication devices in a school zone or construction zone. The fine for violation would be \$60.00 and it would be recorded as a non-moving violation. Of course, there are exceptions listed on lines 26-31 on page 1.

Thanks to Jill Shelley, Legislative Research, I can report to you that Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana and Texas all prohibit the use of mobile communication devices in school zones.

Distracted driving has become a very large problem in our state and our nation. Children headed to schools are often not paying attention as they are happy and looking forward to attending school. Adults should be paying attention and making sure these students arrive safely. Workers in construction zones also have their attention on the tasks they are performing. The speed limits are reduced in construction zones, and motorists should be paying attention to make sure the workers are safe.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I hope the committee will see the merits of restricting distractions in school and construction zones.

Sincerely,
Vicki Schmidt
Assistant Majority Leader
Kansas Senate

VS/ctl