



March 20, 2018

Dear Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the need to protect Good Samaritans and to save the lives of children and animals from hot cars.

I'm Terry Humphrey, representing the Humane Society Legislative Fund of Kansas, a political advocacy organization dedicated to improving animal welfare.

Today, I am speaking to you in support of HB 2516, a bill designed to make sure that no one would hesitate to "get past the glass" and save the life of a child or domestic animal when minutes count and the temperature is rising.

Every nine days a child's life is claimed by a hot car. Currently, there are no statistics for how many companion animals perish in cars, that become ovens in the hot sun. But what we do know, is that a car's temperature can rise to deadly conditions in as little as 10 minutes, and unfortunately cracking the windows does not slow down the heating process.

As legislators, you have the unique opportunity to initiate policies that will improve and protect the lives of Kansans. By passing HB 2516, you will not only allow Good Samaritans to save lives without the fear of repercussion, but you will also save Kansas families from having to grieve the loss of a loved one.

Currently, 18 states have laws in place to protect Good Samaritans who save lives. These states provide us with a good knowledge base of what this bill will do and what it won't do.

- HB 2516 will increase public awareness of the issue. Just as Mothers Against Drunk Driving raised awareness about the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol, and the "Click It or Ticket" slogan encouraged the use of seatbelts, "Get Past the Glass" will bring attention to the dangers of hot cars and it will save lives.
- HB 2516 will not increase the workload of local law enforcement. It does, however, have the potential to save local and state government funds. As Shawn Sullivan, Director of the Budget, pointed out in his fiscal letter, "Granting immunity for claims of damage could reduce tort claims against state and local governments."
- HB 2516 will not encourage individuals to smash car windows when the need is not there. The bill requires Good Samaritans to contact 911 before taking any action. Michael Koval, Chief of Police in Madison, Wisconsin said, "... I do not believe that the proposed legislation would create a watershed of vigilante protectionism." Wisconsin





HUMANE SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE FUND  
OF KANSAS

passed a Good Samaritan law in 2015. While there is a slight risk that someone may act when a person or animal is not in danger, this risk is far outweighed by the importance of saving a life.

HB 2516 has the support of KidsAndCars.org, SAFE Kids Kansas, Kansas Pediatric Foundation, Wichita Animal Action League, Humane Society of Greater KC, Humane Society of the United States, Beauties & Beasts, Midwest Alliance for Animals, and the Kansas Animal Control Association.

In conclusion, we ask you to take the first step to allow Good Samaritans to “get past the glass” to save a life. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terry Humphrey, Government Affairs, HSLFK

