



Testimony in favor of House Bill 2516

Senator Wilborn and Committee Members:

My name is Teresa Taylor, and I am providing this testimony on behalf of the Safe Kids Kansas coalition and the Kansas Emergency Nurses Association (KENA). These organizations are in favor of HB 2516, "providing immunity from civil liability for damage to a motor vehicle related to the rescue of a person or animal."

Safe Kids Kansas is a network of partners and local coalitions across the state dedicated to preventing childhood injury. The leading cause of non-crash, vehicle related deaths for children is heatstroke, also known as hyperthermia. This occurs when the body isn't able to cool itself quickly enough and the body temperature rises to dangerous levels. Young children are particularly at risk as their bodies heat up three to five times faster than adult bodies. The inside of a car can heat up 19 degrees in a matter of 10 minutes. When a child's internal temperature reaches 104 degrees, major organs begin to shut down; at 107 degrees, the child can die. Every second a child is left in a hot car is detrimental. Unfortunately, child vehicular heatstroke deaths are rapidly rising.

The Kansas Emergency Nurses Association is also active in preventing injuries in Kansans. Unfortunately, nurses from across the state have seen the devastating effects of hyperthermia in children left alone in hot vehicles. These injuries and deaths will be reduced if children are rescued as soon as they are discovered, thereby reversing the rapidly progressing hyperthermia, followed by immediate initiation of medical care.

It is the hope of both Safe Kids Kansas and Kansas Emergency Nurses Association and that the protection offered in this legislation will alleviate worries of litigation regarding damage to a vehicle. In turn, we believe community members will be more willing to remove a child from the danger of a hot vehicle. Ultimately, we believe this will result in lives saved.

We urge you to support HB 2516. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa Taylor".

Teresa Taylor, BSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, TCRN
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Safe Kids Kansas Member Organizations

AAA Allied Group
 American Academy of Pediatrics – Kansas Chapter
 Brain Injury Association of Kansas
 Children’s Mercy Hospital
 Child Care Aware of Kansas
 Child Care Providers Together of Kansas
 Eye Care Council
 Dillon Stores
 Fire and Burn Safety Alliance of South Central Kansas
 Fire Education Association of Kansas
 Fire Marshal’s Association of Kansas
 Head Start State Collaboration Office/SRS
 Huggable Images
 HCC Fire Service Training Program
 International Association of Arson Investigators -- Kansas Chapter
 Kansas Academy of Family Practice Physicians
 Kansas Action for Children
 Kansas Association for Counties
 Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
 Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
 Kansas Association of School Boards
 Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services
 Kansas Children’s Cabinet & Trust Fund
 Kansas Chiropractic Association
 Kansas Cooperative Extension 4-H
 Kansas Dental Association
 Kansas Department Health & Environment:
 Bureau of Health Promotion
 Bureau of Family Health
 Bureau of Environmental Health
 Kansas Department of Human Resources
 Kansas Department of Transportation
 Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
 Kansas District of Kiwanis International
 Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association
 Kansas Emergency Nurses Association
 Kansas Farm Bureau
 Kansas Healthy Start Home Visitors
 Kansas Highway Patrol
 Kansas Hospital Association
 Kansas Insurance Department
 Kansas MADD
 Kansas Medical Society
 Kansas Motor Carriers Association
 Kansas National Education Association (KNEA)
 Kansas Operation Lifesaver
 Kansas Parent Teachers Association
 Kansas Poison Control Center
 Kansas Public Health Association

Kansas Recreation & Parks Association
 Kansas Safe Routes to School Program
 Kansas SADD
 Kansas School Nurses Organization
 Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs
 Kansas State Board of Education
 Kansas State Child Death Review Board
 Kansas State Fire Marshal’s Office
 Kansas State Firefighters Association
 Kansas State Nurses Association
 Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office
 Kansas Trauma Program
 Kansas Trial Lawyers Association
 KIDS Network
 KidsAndCars.com
 Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC):
 Burn Center
 Emergency Services
 Trauma Program
 National Highway Transportation Safety Administration
 (NHTSA) Regional Office
 Office of the Governor
 Safety & Health Council of Western MO & KS
 State Capitol Area Fire Fighters Association
 State Farm Insurance Companies
 Stormont-Vail Regional Medical Center
 United School Administrators of Kansas
 Via Christi Hospital
 St. Francis Burn Center
 Trauma Center
 Wesley Medical Center

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