

# State of Kansas

## Senate Chamber

PAT PETTEY  
STATE SENATOR, 6TH DISTRICT  
5316 LAKEWOOD ST.  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66106  
(913) 236-7463

ROOM 125-E, STATE CAPITOL  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
(785) 296-7375  
pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov



Thank you, Chairman Peterson, and members of the Transportation Committee.

Nearly 303 million people in the United States have cell phones. At any given moment during the day more than 800,000 vehicles are being driven by someone using a hand-held cell phone. Many states have passed laws related to cell phone use in a car. Fourteen states have banned hand-held phone use by all drivers. SB 99 would make Kansas the 15<sup>th</sup> state to enact such legislation. This legislation would add "holding a wireless communication device to the person's ear" a violation that a driver could be stopped for and fined \$60.00. This fine matches that in current law for texting.

Distracted driving is the #1 cause of accidents. KDOT reported in 2014 that 531 accidents were due to cell phones. Phones are not the only distraction for drivers, but they are one that legislation can affect.

The evidence from a study done in 2014 suggest that a ban on hand-held phones resulted in a higher rate of hands free phone use and lower overall phone use compared with drivers in non-ban states.

Thank you for hearing SB99 and I would ask for your support to continue to make our roads safer in Kansas.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Pettey".