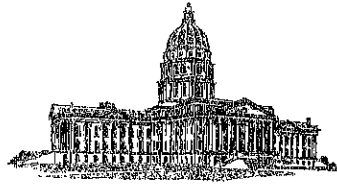


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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 15, 2017

Testimony in Support of SB181

**Senate Transportation Committee**

**Honorable Chair – Senator Mike Peterson**

**Vice Chair – Senator John Doll**

**Ranking Minority – Senator Pat Pettey**

**Honorable Committee Members**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and other esteemed Senators of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill number 181. As I mentioned in testimony for SB 5 which addressed relief for persons with suspended drivers' licenses, setting up a statewide amnesty program will pull citizens into court to clear their records. Fines that have gone unpaid because punitive fees have driven them too high to afford will be addressed. This will ultimately generate revenue rather than having uncollected fees sitting on the books, increasing, but never getting paid.

The City of Wichita has held several amnesty programs over the past 10 years. They have put citizens back in the position where they were before their licenses were suspended, or before their court cases were warranted. They have been able to set up payment plans and to clear their records and citizens have been able to remove the threat of being arrested for driving with a suspended license.

In 2015 the City of Wichita saw the following outcomes from their amnesty program. Imagine what numbers we would see if these were statewide figures instead of just for one city!

- 945 people participated
- 576 participants fully resolved their outstanding cases
- \$136,000 in fees, such as for collection agencies, were waived
- \$89,000 in originally imposed fees were collected
- 554 unserved warrants were cleared

Sincerely

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau