



Highway Patrol

Written Testimony on House Bill 2076  
Senate Committee on Transportation

Prepared by  
Lieutenant Adam Winters  
Kansas Highway Patrol

March 7, 2017

The Kansas Highway Patrol appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on changes set forth in House Bill 2076 and supports its life safety implications. This bill would increase the existing fine relating to the non-use of safety belts from \$10 to \$30, would create the seat belt safety fund, and would adjust the percentage of remittances credited to several funds.

The principal function of the Kansas Highway Patrol is to enforce traffic and other laws of this state relating to highways, vehicles, and drivers of vehicles. Consistent with this function is the agency's mission and goals which state in part that the, "Patrol will promote the use of child restraints and safety belts through aggressive enforcement and educational programs", and will "reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes through the enforcement of impaired driving and occupant protection laws". An educational effort followed by enforcement is a proven strategy that will aid our agency in achieving compliance with traffic regulations. When considering Kansas' fine schedule, the current adult seat belt violation does not reinforce the enforcement side of the equation. Penalties for violating regulations must be effective to ensure this strategy is successful.

While HB 2076 enhances our mission and goals, it also strengthens our partnership with the traffic safety community. This bill will cultivate a collaborative effort aimed at reducing deaths and injuries to occupants involved in motor vehicle crashes. The funds generated by those who violate the law will be spent on educating our teens and young people, increasing awareness, and providing resources for programs like Seatbelts Are For Everyone (SAFE). Programs like SAFE bring law enforcement into schools and communities in an effort with community members to change a culture of behavior in a positive way.

In closing, the Kansas Highway Patrol appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB 2076 because it has the opportunity save lives. One life needlessly lost is one too many, especially when the opportunity exists to save it.

###