



TESTIMONY, HB 2095

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**March 15, 2017
Senate Transportation Committee**

On behalf of over 335,000 Kansas AAA members and their safety, as well as the safety of all Kansas motorists, we wish to express our opposition to HB 2095. It is our long-standing position that allowing heavier trucks would create serious safety hazards and accelerate the deterioration of our state's highway pavement and our bridges.

AAA Kansas opposes any increase in maximum truck weight standards since the present legal weight limits applying to trucks already taxes the limits of highway safety and infrastructure integrity.

We have serious concerns about the safety implications of heavier trucks sharing the highway system with a growing fleet of smaller passenger vehicles. A 2016 U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) study found that trucks weighing over 80,000 pounds had 18 percent higher brake violation rates compared to those at or below 80,000 pounds (2016 USDOT Final Report to Congress). Even more alarming, the 2016 Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study found that a truck with any out-of-service violation is 362 percent more likely to be involved in a crash.

Allowing these proposed heavier trucks will create further wear and tear on truck safety equipment, especially braking systems, which is associated with higher crash rates as noted above. In fact, the 2016 USDOT study found that heavier trucks have dramatically higher crash rates in limited state testing. As an example, the study found a 47 percent higher crash rates in the State of Washington at 91,000 pounds. This extra weight will also lead to more truck rollovers and make trucks harder to steer and maneuver, especially in an accident avoidance situation.

Because of these real and serious safety and Kansas roadway concerns, we respectfully ask you to oppose HB 2095.