

STATE OF KANSAS



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Written Testimony on House Bill 2040
Senate Committee on Transportation

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Kansas Highway Patrol

March 13, 2018

The Kansas Highway Patrol appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on Substitute House Bill 2040. The current fine for improperly passing a school bus is \$315.00. This bill would create an additional penalty for those who continue to endanger Kansas' children. The fine would increase to \$750.00 for a second violation within five years and \$1,000.00 for a third or subsequent violation.

One of the Kansas Highway Patrol's Mission and Goals is, "We pledge to be responsive to concerns of citizens and public safety partners". House Bill 2040 will further enhance our partnership with the education community and Kansas' citizens in an effort aimed at reducing the risks to our children as they enter and exit a school bus.

According to the National Association of State Director of Pupil Transportation Services, there are over 16 million instances a year in which a school bus is illegally passed. Each time a school bus is illegally passed another child is put at risk. It is the long-standing belief of the Kansas Highway Patrol that traffic citations should be used not only to educate, but deter dangerous driver behavior. When it comes to the endangering of our children, the penalty should match the severity of the violation.

In closing, the Kansas Highway Patrol supports HB 2040 because of the potential to save the lives of Kansas' children. The Kansas Highway Patrol encourages you to vote in support of this bill.

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