

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Ponka-We Victors
Representative, 103rd District

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**House Federal & State Affairs Committee
Representative John Barker, Chairman**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman for allowing us a hearing on this important driver's license issue that affects not only my district but the entire state of Kansas. It was brought forth by my community members who are in attendance today and I would like to thank them for coming to our capitol and showing support. Currently, there are thousands of Kansas residents that cannot prove lawful presence. Many remain in the country and continue to drive without a license while performing essential daily activities such as driving to work, school, and church. This bill would provide a legal pathway for all Kansas residents regardless of immigration status to be properly educated on the traffic laws and insured.

HB 2003 would promote public safety, economic strength, display bipartisan support, and improve the lives of families in Kansas. Drivers educated in the rules of driving, pass required tests, carry automobile insurance and contribute to the overall safety and security of all drivers on our roads. According to the American Automobile Association, undocumented immigrants are five times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash compared to licensed drivers. This bill would help relieve the burden and encourage drivers to stop, render aid, and exchange insurance information at the scene of an accident without fear of being cited for driving without a license and no insurance. Enabling law enforcement to collect and maintain photos, information, and last known addresses of all Kansas drivers in a central database makes everyone safer and allows for law enforcement to better identify people not otherwise documented.

Mr. Chairman, I believe this straightforward issue with a common-sense solution can help the undocumented community because they are our neighbors, our students, our workforce, our family, and our friends. This bill would allow the undocumented community to come out of the shadows when performing everyday activities. For so long, Kansas has taken a bad hit in the media when it comes to the anti-immigration laws introduced here in the legislature. Today, I give you an opportunity to change the narrative that immigrants drain on our system but instead acknowledge that they contribute to our state by providing a pathway for them to drive safely to work.

I humbly thank you for your time on this important issue,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ponka-We".

Ponka-We Victors, District 103