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### Written Testimony for House Bill 2083

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Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Norraine Wingfield and I am the Director of the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office and an AARP Smart Driver Instructor.

Nationwide Older drivers made up 18 percent of all traffic fatalities in 2016 which was up 3 percent from the following year. In 2017, 247 of the 624 fatal crashes were drivers over the age of 50. The Kansas Department of Transportation has included older drivers in their highway safety plan and marked this portion of the population as an emphasis area of concern for Kansas roads.

My office works closely with the AARP Smart Driver program here in the state as well as the AAA Defensive Driving program. We provide resources, encourage defensive driving programs in the state and assist with trainings when instructors are needed. We also work with KDOT, Areas on Aging, Senior Centers and local communities to promote the network of classes and alternative transportation in the State.

The 8-hour AARP Classes have fallen significantly since 2012 when there were 203 classes and 2364 participants. In 2018 AARP only held 118 classes with 1444 participants.

In 2018 there are 32 States and Territories that approve the AARP 4-hour course length. Kansas is one of only 6 states requiring 8 hours. Some thoughts on the 4-hour vs 8-hour course:

- Drivers insured in Kansas can still receive a discount on their insurance if they take the course in a neighboring state that offer a 4-hour course or the Kansas 8 hour.
- Nebraska, Colorado & Missouri allow a 4-hour curriculum. Oklahoma has a 6-hour course.
- Those crossing state lines miss out on the state specific laws of Kansas that are incorporated into the curriculum
- Sitting in a classroom for 8 hours may prove difficult for mature drivers as well as busy schedules don't allow for the length of time spent on a Saturday or evening.

As the baby boomer generation ages and are remaining longer in the workforce and are physically active in their retirement they remain on Kansas roads longer then generations of the past. They are also faster paced in their daily activities and much more knowledgeable with technology and so our traditional 8-hour course is becoming a challenge to bring participants in to train.

My office encourages all traffic safety education because it is better than no education at all. Both AARP and AAA driver courses provide a resource to keep drivers safe on our Kansas roads.