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Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation in Support of HB 2088

February 5, 2019

Chairman Proehl, Vice Chairman Thimesch, Ranking Member Helgerson, and Members of the Committee:

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office supports HB 2088. The primary goal of traffic law is to protect lives and property by providing an established and recognized procedure for operating vehicles in a safe manner. Traffic law enforcement has a positive influence on crime reduction. Most crimes are committed by someone driving a car – either to get to the scene of the crime or to leave from the scene of a crime. Intercepting the person prior to a crime being committed because of a traffic stop can reduce crime, stopping the crime before it happens. Making a traffic stop after a crime has occurred has led to arrests in major cases, such as the Oklahoma City bomber Timothy J. McVeigh, serial killer Ted Bundy, serial killer Randy Kraft, and Night Stalker Richard Ramirez.

Last year this bill was known SB 274/SB 441, which I have attached to my testimony. The senate committee amended the bill by a "gut and go" amendment. The amendment replaced the language specifying what constitutes negligent driving to language upheld by the Kansas Court of Appeals in 2009. The language mirrored a City of Hutchinson traffic ordinance. SB 274 died in committee. SB 441 was introduced later in the session as an exempt bill. It contained the same language as SB 274 as amended had. Since the language has been appealed and held to be constitutional it now has case law that supports it. It makes sense to support "court tested" language.

The Johnson County Sheriff's Office asks you to recommend the bill favorably for passage.

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