



A.B.A.T.E. OF KANSAS, INC.

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Chairman Proehl, Vice-Chair Thimesch, Representative Helgerson, and members of the House Committee on Transportation. I am Steve Christenberry, lobbyist for ABATE of Kansas, a motorcycle rights organization. I have also been a Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider education instructor since 1994, and am the President of Smart Motorcyclists Attend Rider Training, Inc., which teaches classes at Seaman USD 345 and Shawnee Heights USD 450 here in Shawnee County.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you about HB 2088. ABATE of Kansas has for several years pursued legislation that would increase penalties for right of way violations. Those bills have gained little traction, as increasing fine fees is really not a deterrent, as most citizens have no idea what the fines are for any infraction. Nevertheless, far too often motorists violate other motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists right of way, often not cited as in fault of the accident. This can leave it to the victim to incur expenses for injury or property damage, instead of those expenses being charged to the perpetrator. HB 2088 does not modify the penalties for the long list of infractions in the current law's uniform fine schedule. It does, however, include a new violation called "negligent driving," which would more clearly define guilt when individuals are charged with infractions, and therefore assign responsibility for injuries and property damage to the guilty party. This bill was heard by the Senate Committee on Transportation last year, first as SB 274 and then as SB 441. While it was worked in the Committee it did not reach the floor for a vote.

ABATE of Kansas and our members support HB 2088. We encourage the House Committee on Transportation to support it as well.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

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