

Chairman Proehl and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

My name is Eric Rogers and I'm the executive director for BikeWalkKC.

BikeWalkKC supports House Bill No. 2088, which seeks to strengthen legislation regarding negligent driving. In order for Kansas to become a better state for cyclists and pedestrians, **we need legislation like this to deter motorists from behavior that puts these vulnerable road users at risk.**

BikeWalkKC supports this measure for the following reasons:

- **First, this will deter motorists from driving while distracted.** The bill explicitly prohibits operating a vehicle "...inattentively in such a manner as to endanger, or be likely to endanger, any person or property." The addition of the \$45 fine will work to persuade drivers to put their life, instead of their phones, into their own hands.
- **Second, we must work to reverse negative trends for vulnerable road users across the state.** The National Complete Streets Coalition uses what is known as a "pedestrian danger index" to calculate how dangerous a place is for people to walk. The calculation is based on the number of people struck and killed by drivers while walking, while controlling for the number of people living in the area and the number who walk to work. Within the last three years, the score for Kansas has increased by 5.6 points, placing us in the top 20 states for increases in PDI. We need legislation like this to start reversing trends like these.
- **Finally, if enacted, this bill will ultimately benefit all modes of transportation.** The legislation will not only protect cyclists and pedestrians, but also other motorists, those operating emergency vehicles, and those with limited mobility or disability issues. In passing this legislation, we can ensure that no matter how you choose to move through the Sunflower State, you are doing so in a way that will be safer.

Negligent driving has unfortunately become a more common occurrence, leading to innumerable near-collisions and avoidable mayhem. **However, House Bill No. 2088 gives us an opportunity to prevent that dangerous behavior.** In passing this legislation, we clearly state the punishment for this reckless behavior, begin the work to reverse negative trends, and continue the necessary work to make our roads safe for all.

Please vote "YES" on HB 2088.

Thank you.