

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2568
RELATING TO SPEED LIMITS ALLOWING LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO DECREASE SPEED
LIMITS WITHOUT AN ENGINEERING AND TRAFFIC INVESTIGATION**

February 13, 2020

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is providing neutral testimony on House Bill 2568 relating to speed limits allowing local authorities to decrease speed limits without an engineering and traffic investigation.

This bill as worded is not applicable to state highways under KDOT jurisdiction including our highways within the local authorities' jurisdictional limits with one exception. Within an urban district in a school zone, KDOT cannot alter any speed limit without first obtaining approval from the local authority. As it is currently written, KDOT would need to seek approval to alter the speed limit based on an engineering and traffic investigation if a speed limit were to be set to 5 mph by a local jurisdiction under this exception. We do not believe the intent of the bill is to lower speed limits to 5 mph on highways in urban district school zones.

Safety is a top priority at KDOT and reducing crashes and fatalities on the transportation system is important to KDOT. It is important the committee be aware that artificially lowering the speed limit on a roadway designed for higher speeds can and often does cause unintended consequences. One such example is some motorists will follow it while others may not because the design of the roadway is such that speeds could be safely set higher than 5 mph. Allowing arbitrary speed limits to be set without a traffic study could also result in questions as to how the initial speed limit set was determined to be safe and appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral written testimony on House Bill 2568.