

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

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OLETHA FAUST-GOUDEAU
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

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RANKING MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
ETHICS, ELECTIONS &
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March 30, 2020

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 275

The House Committee on Transportation:

Chair: Rep. Richard Proehl

Vice-Chair: Rep. Jack Thimesch

Ranking Minority Member: Rep. Henry Helgerson

Committee Members

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and other distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 275.

A few years ago we passed a law allowing individuals with a suspended drivers' license to apply for a restricted license and pay a non-refundable fee to drive to work, school, church, court and to doctor appointments while maintaining car insurance and making payments on traffic fines. The Department of Revenue/Driver Control reports that many have applied and received a restricted license and fines were collected in their department and locally. That's a "Win, Win" situation however, many applications were denied for various reasons. I began tracking current law and attended a Suspended Drivers' License Workshop this past summer as a panelist with Wichita Police Chief Gordon Ramsey, attorneys, a staff person with Drivers Control, along with the Racial Profiling Board, who participated over the phone during the workshop to answer questions from almost 300 people in attendance. What we discovered at the workshop, being the main reason that some individuals could not participate in current law and receive a restrictive license, was that they were in a revoked status (Driving While Suspended). I also worked with Peter Ninemire and Melissa Lubbers of the Caring Center of Wichita to try and address this issue.

This bill includes those drivers with certain conditions and will help so many people affected by this issue by allowing them to drive back and forth to work, school, etc., while making payments toward their fines. It will also remove other barriers that prevent reinstatement regarding driver

licenses, which you'll hear about from other conferees here today. I truly believe that without your help, it's very unlikely that some Kansans, because of the high traffic fines that have been accumulated for them over the years, they will never be able to drive legally again.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to support SB 275.

Sincerely,

Oletha Faust-Goudeau

Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau