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Date: 02/20/2019

TO: SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

RE: Senate Bill 87- Driver License Suspension Bill-**As Amended**

Dear Senators:

I am writing to you to express my support for Senate Bill 87 (as amended) and ask that you also support and pass it.

I am the president of the Racial Profiling Citizens Advisory Board of Wichita. In 2014 our board provided a community workshop providing citizens of Wichita an opportunity to apply for Hardship Licenses. With the help of Kansas Department of Revenue, Topeka, we were able to service only about 75 people in the short time span of the workshop. However, there were well over 250 attendees at that workshop. We discovered that well over 250,000 Kansas have been stripped of their driving privileges basically because of their inability to pay fees and fines with built in interest. Some fines and fees dated back some 7 to 10 years.

- I support SB 87 as amended, and ask that you support it by passing it, as it provides relief to individuals/families who have found themselves in a system of unfair, harsh penalties that doesn't fit the original offense. That the present statute forces a person to choose to drive illegally (and risk incarceration and more fines) in order to get work or meet personal/family needs or choose not to drive and lose needed income and access to education and other needed services. *Debt-based driver license suspension/revocation force the working poor into an impossible position.*
- I support SB 87 as amended, and ask that you support it by passing it, because the **current statutes and subsections as written**, provides no practical, fair relief, and is punitive. SB 87 provides a sensible "FIRST STEP", in addressing a major problem that deprives people of their livelihood and creates an unwarranted and major financial hardship that involves the entire family. *Debt-based driver license suspension/revocation forces the working poor into an impossible position.*
- I support SB 87 as amended, and ask that you support it by passing it, because the current statute and subsections allow for excessive reinstatement fees which are excessive, cumulative, and beneficial only to the state or municipal entity, while punishing poor individual and families, granting NO fair or immediate relief. *Debt-based drivers license suspensions/revocations forces the working poor into an impossible position.*

Senate Judiciary
Date 2-22-19
Attachment # 9-1

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Debt-based driver's license suspensions/revocations are a poverty penalty that punishes people solely because they are poor! The penalty is not a driving related offense, thus has no public safety justification. Instead, it produces obstacles in front of people seeking to support themselves and their family. Your economic status should not determine your access to justice and ability to make amends!

If we are to restore common sense and fairness to our criminal justice system and turn back unfair overly harsh penalties that destroy those of modest means, "let's begin here!"

*Please support the bill filed by Judge Phil Journey and Senator Oletha Faust-Godeau of the 29th District. I'm sure you agree that access to a valid driver's license is **essential** to thousands of Kansans and should NOT be suspended or revoked unless the suspension is directly connected to a driving related offense. And, the ability for motorist to have reinstated DL should apply to city, as well as county municipalities.*

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to addressing any questions should you have any.

Sincerely,

Sheila Officer-RPCAB- Chair
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