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**Testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee
In Support of SB17
January 29, 2019**

Chairman Petersen and Committee members:

Our associations support SB17. We believe this bill will be a foundation for reducing motorcycle fatalities in the state of Kansas. It will remove the exemption from the requirement for a class M driver's license endorsement or motorcycle learner's permit for persons operating motorcycles when the cycle has a temporary license plate.

Data from 2015-2018 shows just over half of the fatality crashes involving motorcycles involve a motorcycle operator without a class M endorsement. Just under half of all motorcycle crashes involve a motorcycle operator without a class M endorsement.

I hope you will all agree that when half of all motorcycle fatalities involve an operator without the proper license, we have a problem. We must do more to encourage motorcycle operators to be properly trained.

We believe that once a person is properly trained in motorcycle operation they will be a safer motorcycle operator for life. The current law minimizes the importance of that training and licensing by saying it isn't needed for the first 60 days you own and operate a motorcycle, probably the most vulnerable time for new motorcycle operators.

Driver's license exemptions are not allowed for any other class of motor vehicle because it displays a temporary plate. There is not a rationale advantage to continuing the current statutory policy that outweighs the safety advantage of changing it.

We encourage you to recommend SB17 favorably for passage.

Ed Klumpp
Legislative Liaison