



1000 SW Jackson St
Suite 230
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Written testimony presented to the Senate Transportation Committee Senate Bill 459

Chairman Petersen and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, Safe Kids Kansas is pleased to provide testimony in support of SB 459. Safe Kids Kansas is a nonprofit coalition of statewide agencies, organizations and businesses dedicated to preventing unintentional injuries and injury-related death to Kansas children ages 0-19.

As injury prevention specialists and safety advocates we know that driving a vehicle weighing two or more tons on our roadways is a serious responsibility. The driver must not only process hundreds of tiny decisions each mile driven for their own safety, but also for the safety of others using or crossing these shared roads. In addition to the numerous distractions that take place in our vehicles such as alerts on the dashboard, music on the radio, eating and conversations with passengers, mobile devices provide even more. From texts and other notifications, to music, movies, apps, and phone conversations, these devices pull the driver's attention away from their most important task, driving. In the matter of just a moment, the driver's attention may be pulled away from a bicyclist or motorcycle in the lane ahead, or a pedestrian walking on a stretch of road without sidewalks. As drivers, it is our responsibility to take caution and be aware of our surroundings. When a person is negligent in their driving responsibilities, it can result in serious or fatal consequences.

We support SB 459 and reasonable penalties for distracted driving behaviors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. We believe all children deserve the chance to grow up free from serious and disabling injuries. Should you have any questions on children's safety issues at any time, please feel free to contact Phyllis Larimore at 913-314-5952.

Attachments:

Safe Kids Kansas Member Organizations



safekidskansas.org



Safe Kids Kansas Member Organizations

- AAA Kansas
- American Academy of Pediatrics – Kansas Chapter
- Brain Injury Association of Kansas
- Children’s Mercy Hospital
- Child Care Aware of Kansas
- Eye Care Council
- Fire Education Association of Kansas
- Head Start State Collaboration Office/SRS
- Huggable Images
- Kansas Academy of Family Practice Physicians
- Kansas Action for Children
- Kansas Association of Counties
- Kansas Association of Local Health Departments
- Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
- Kansas Association of School Boards
- Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services
- Kansas Children’s Cabinet & Trust Fund
- Kansas Chiropractic Association
- Kansas Cooperative Extension 4-H
- Kansas Dental Association
- Kansas Department Health & Environment:
 - Bureau of Health Promotion
 - Bureau of Family Health
- Kansas Department of Labor
- Kansas Department of Transportation
- Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
- Kansas Emergency Nurses Association
- Kansas Healthy Start Home Visitor Services
- Kansas Highway Patrol
- Kansas Hospital Association
- Kansas Insurance Department
- Kansas Medical Society
- Kansas Motor Carriers Association
- Kansas National Education Association (KNEA)
- Kansas Operation Lifesaver
- Kansas Parent Teachers Association
- Kansas Poison Control Center
- Kansas Public Health Association
- Kansas SADD
- Kansas School Nurses Organization
- Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs
- Kansas State Department of Education
- Kansas State Child Death Review Board
- Kansas State Firefighters Association
- Kansas State Nurses Association
- Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office
- Kansas Trauma Program
- Kansas Trial Lawyers Association
- KIDS Network
- KidsAndCars.com
- Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC):
 - Burn Center
 - Emergency Services
 - Trauma Program
- National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) Regional Office
- Office of the Governor
- Office of the State Fire Marshal
- Safety & Health Council of Western MO & KS
- State Capitol Area Fire Fighters Association
- State Farm Insurance Companies
- Stormont-Vail Healthcare
- United School Administrators of Kansas
- Ascension Via Christi
 - St. Francis Burn Center
 - Trauma Center
- Wesley Medical Center

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