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Rep. Richard Proehl-Chairman
Kansas House Transportation Committee

Dear Committee:

I am a 14 year old middle school student at Basehor-Linwood Middle School and in a few months I will be testing for my restricted driver's license. I have a learner's permit now and will be taking driver's ed. I would like to tell you why your committee should vote for changes in the restricted license to let students like me drive to church as well as school and work if we pass the tests.

Many students live long distances from where they go to school or maybe work on a farm. If they pass all of the state driving tests they can go to and from school or their farm to do chores. There are also many good young drivers who also attend their church for youth events, confirmation, or services. Many times our parents or other people must take us to church since the restricted does not allow us to drive ourselves to church events like it does for jobs or schools. This can be a hardship for those of us like me who live in the country and it means some times we just do not get to go if no one can take us.

My father is gone with the Army for long times staying in Kentucky and my mother must try to work a full-time job and get me and my 6 year old sister to all kinds of things. My grandparents help out getting us places, but they also both work and usually have to sit and wait for 1 or 2 hours at church until our meetings are done.

Our football coach has a rule for us that tells us in what order we should live our lives and it is, "faith-family-football." So if I am allowed to drive somewhere I would appreciate being able to also drive to church. Thank you all for letting me speak.

Respectfully,

Brayden L. Jones
Linwood, Kansas