



RACIAL PROFILING ADVISORY BOARD OF WICHITA



Testimony in Support of SB100 as Amended

Presented by Sheila Officer, Chair Racial Profiling Advisory Board

Driver's License/driving is a critical component of everyday life!

Can you as a legislator, father, grandfather, uncle, imagine having no dependable, viable, continuous legal means of transportation to go about your every-day tasks? i.e., grocery store, doctor's appointments, school, work?

Well now, imagine the 240,000 Kansans who struggle with this daily. Struggle with choosing whether to drive and risk further arrest, prosecutions, financial debt, OR, to drive and do what we all would do, help maintain and sustain our families.

And WHY? Because you are a safety risk to the roads? NO, because you cannot afford to pay the fines, fees, and other State assessed financial debt demanded against you.

WHY, because there are no provisions from the courts or the State that provide you financial relief while allowing you to maintain and sustain your family by economic opportunities which the ability to drive provides.

- *I support SB100 as AMENDED, as it gives Kansans relief. It helps save thousands of families and allows for greater economic opportunities.*

AS AMENDED- SB100 will:

- Allows for the immediate reinstatement of drivers' licenses instead of waiting 90 days once conditions are agreed/satisfied.*
- Allows for the original traffic citation to stand; court costs to be accessed without stacking numerous, fines and fees of reinstatement based on the number of cases or charges. (SB100- as AMENDED will allow reduced reinstatement fees and or waiver of those fees.)*
- Allows Kansans the opportunity to apply community service work or educational driving courses towards court fines, fees, and tickets.*
- Allows Kansans the opportunity to call the Clerk's Office, enter a plea without having to appear in court; arrange an agreeable payment plan, without having their license suspended, AND allowed to continue to drive legally while paying those fines, fees.*
- Allow Kansans to apply for a restricted license while satisfying fines, fees, etc.*

We should understand that suspending a person's driver's license limits their ability to pay their court debt because most people need to drive to get to work. When you lose your driver's license, you lose your work, and your ability to maintain and sustain yourself and your family!

- *Driving is a CRITICAL component of daily life! There are some 240,000 Kansans who would attest to that.*

Suspending a driver's license should be used to keep unsafe drivers off the road, not as a "debt collection tool." Because in all practicality, NO amount of coercion can extract money from people who do not have the money to give! Let us do the humane thing here! Let us work and pass SB100 as AMENDED. It is a sensible way to address traffic tickets, parking tickets, court costs, and fees for people who absolutely cannot afford to pay!

I urge and request this legislative body to support, work and pass SB100 as AMENDED.



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Thank you.

Sheila Officer

6400 Scottsville Street North

Wichita, KS 67219

316-371-0013- scofficer7@gmail.com