

Testimony in Support of SB100 as Amended

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Senate Transportation Chairman Petersen, Vice-Chair Claeys, Ranking Minority Member Hawks and Committee members.

I'm writing in support of SB100 as Amended. Amended SB100 will release thousands of families from the shackles of a no-win situation that disproportionately impacts poor families. The fines associated with motor vehicle moving violations have caused over 200,000 Kansans to lose their driver's license. The loss of a driver's license for poor people frequently causes an out of control spiral of financial crisis that many cannot overcome. The testimony of others has clearly communicated the issues with the current laws.

Kansans are common sense people. If your constituents are following SB100 as Amended and understood the implications of current laws they would agree that changes need to be made. In my opinion, amending SB100 doesn't go far enough to correct the challenge faced by many poor people but it is a step in the right direction. Why would anyone want to prevent their neighbor from driving just because they cannot afford to pay a fine?

I have direct experience with this law. Our youngest son received a speeding ticket in Eastern Kansas. At the time he was living on his own. Like so many young people he lost his employment due to the pandemic. He did not have money to pay the fine or to make his car payments. He lost his car. Because he was unable to find employment within walking distance of his residence, he was living with no running water or electricity. Thankfully he decided he needed a fresh start and moved back home. Once back at home he had the same challenge. He was unable to find employment within safe walking distance of our home. Fortunately, he had a safety net. We were able to pay his fines, and pay the fees associated with getting car insurance after a suspended license. He is now working at McDonalds. I cringe to think what would have happened to him if he did not have someone to help him.

MANY KANSANS DO NOT HAVE A SAFETY NET. This is particularly true in a pandemic. The escalation of fines and penalties, including JAIL, are excessive punishment that not only impacts the driver but WILL impact their family.

Please support SB100 as Amended. Provide an opportunity for reasonable payment plans that will allow your constituents the opportunity to drive and provide for their families.

Thank you!!

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