



KANSAS FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

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PAM SCOTT
Topeka

To: Senate Transportation Committee

From: Pam Scott, Executive Director
Kansas Funeral Directors Association

Re: Senate Bill No. 131

Date: February 24, 2021

Chairman Peterson and members of the Committee, I am Pam Scott, Executive Director of the Kansas Funeral Directors Association. I appear before you today in support of Senate Bill No. 131 which would establish a right of way for funeral processions.

People all over the world have shown their respect for the dead by honoring and showing courtesy to the funeral procession as it passes by. Although horse drawn carriages of the past have been replaced by motor vehicles, family and friends still follow the body to its final resting place. Even though society has become more hectic and impatient, importance is still given to honoring the dead and providing the family with a peaceful, uninterrupted, reflective trip to the cemetery. The procession also serves the purpose of assuring that out-of-town mourners don't get lost along the way to the cemetery so that the service can start without delay and the grieving family will not be kept waiting.

Kansas has no comprehensive law governing funeral processions. Rules concerning funeral processions are currently established on a county-by-county, city-by-city basis, if they exist at all. There is no consistency. This creates confusion when a funeral procession passes through numerous cities and counties while on the way to a cemetery. It is often unclear when one city ends and another begins. The KFDA believes that a uniform statewide funeral procession law would improve the safety of funeral processions by setting forth a clear set of rules that must be followed by funeral directors and the public.

A uniform law would also allow the public to be better educated on the rules of the road concerning funeral processions. With a statewide law, education could be conducted through the State of Kansas Drivers Handbook that is given to drivers upon the testing for and renewal of their driver's licenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. The membership of the KFDA would appreciate your support of Senate Bill No. 131. It is important that we have a uniform law in place to govern funeral processions. We hope you will help us to continue the practice of honoring the dead through funeral processions.