

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shannon Francis at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, in room 582-N of the Capitol.

All members were present

### Committee staff present:

Adam Siebers, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Chris Waggoner, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Eric Adell, Legislative Research Department  
Jill Shelley, Legislative Research Department  
Meg Atwood, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

### Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Travis Lowe, AAA  
Michael White, Kansas Contractors Association  
Jennifer Smith, Stop Distractions  
Captain Candice Breshears, Kansas Highway Patrol

### Others in attendance:

No list available

### **Request for bill introductions**

Representative Francis requested introduction of a bill, RS2625, on behalf of Representative Seiwert, who asked for the request on behalf of Ron Hirst, a Reno County Commissioner, for a bill having to do with Highway K-96. Without objection, the request was accepted.

### **Hearing on: HB2499 — Prohibiting the use of a mobile telephone while operating a vehicle in a school or construction zone or by individuals less than 18 years of age.**

Jill Shelley, Research Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department, briefed the committee on current costs and laws to reduce distracted driving. ([Attachment 1](#))

Chris Waggoner, Assistant Revisor, Office of Revisor of Statutes, provided the committee with a briefing on the bill. ([Attachment 2](#))

### **Proponents:**

Travis Lowe, American Automobile Association (AAA) supported **HB 2499** as a bill that would prohibit the handheld use of a cell phone for drivers under the age of 18. ([Attachment 3](#)) ([Attachment 3A](#))

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Michael White, Executive Director of Kansas Contractors Association (KCA), supported **HB 2499** with information on Kansas Work Zone crash statistics and the consistency of this law with 30 other states that restrict handheld phone use. ([Attachment 4](#))

Jennifer Smith, CEO and President of Stop Distractions, purported support for the bill prohibiting the use of a mobile telephone while operating a vehicle in a school zone or a road construction zone or by individuals under 18 years of age. ([Attachment 5](#)) ([Attachment 6](#))

Captain Candice Breshears, Kansas Highway Patrol, presented testimony in support of **HB 2499** highlighting several points to emphasize their endorsement. ([Attachment 7](#))

**Proponent Written Only:**

Jason Wetzel, General Motors ([Attachment 8](#)),

Phyllis Larimore, Safe Kids Kansas ([Attachment 9](#))([Attachment 10](#))([Attachment 11](#))

Chrissy Mayer, DCCCA ([Attachment 12](#))

Joel Skelly ([Attachment 13](#)),

Jay Nettesheim ATSSA ( ([Attachment 14](#))

Ed Klumpp, Kansas Officers of Chief of Police, Sheriff's Association, & Officers of Peace ([Attachment 15](#)) ([Attachment 16](#))

There were no opponents and no neutral testimonies.

The chair closed the hearing on **HB 2499**.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.