

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 476
RELATING TO SPEEDING 100+ MPH**

February 15, 2024

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Chris Bortz, Assistant Bureau Chief of Transportation Safety for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide testimony on Senate Bill 476. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and to provide comments.

KDOT supports this bill as it relates to safety on our roadways. Safety for the traveling public is a priority at KDOT. Speeding puts the lives of everyone on Kansas roadways including our KDOT workforce who are out working on our roads daily. Traveling at higher speeds decreases a driver's reaction time resulting in an increased likelihood of a vehicle crash. These higher speeds also increase the likelihood a driver and/or others will sustain more severe injuries including fatalities in the event of a crash. KDOT strives to improve the safety and quality of life for the traveling public. This bill would provide additional penalties to an offender when cited for a speed in excess of 100 MPH. These additional penalties coupled with the current traffic fine structure are meant to hold offenders accountable and be a deterrent to drivers that are excessively driving above the posted speed limit and putting themselves and everyone else on the road at risk. This bill supports the mission of the Drive to Zero coalition to reduce deaths and injuries on Kansas roads.

Crash data from 2022 shows 78 fatal crashes and 94 fatalities resulting from speeding. Speed resulted in 234 suspected serious injury crashes and 311 people seriously injured. Over 400 individuals died or had a life changing injury due to speeding in 2022. 2019-2023 crash data shows that 429 people died and 1,451 people were seriously injured in speeding related crashes. Annually, about 20 to 25 percent of all fatalities in the state can be attributed to speeding or too fast for conditions.

This bill would create another tool to help curb this dangerous behavior by holding drivers accountable. Speeding at 100 plus MPH not only puts the driver at risk, but also endangers all other road users that are obeying the traffic laws in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 476. I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.