



KCA
KANSAS CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION

January 23, 2024

**Proponent Testimony on HB 2499
House Transportation Committee**

Chairman Francis and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the Kansas Contractors Association (KCA). The KCA represents more than 200 companies working in Kansas' heavy construction industry. Collectively, these companies create and sustain more than 40,000 good-paying, private sector jobs across our state.

KCA members manage hundreds of construction zones each day across Kansas. HB 2499 would help improve the safety for thousands of construction zone workers.

HB 2499 is a narrowly defined "hands free cellphone bill". The bill would prohibit the handheld use of a cell phone for all drivers under the age of 18 and all drivers, regardless of age, when driving through a construction zone while workers are present or a school zone when a reduced speed limit is enforced.

I have attached to my testimony the Kansas Work Zone Crash statistics from 2021 and 2022. Total crashes for the two-year period were 2,405 with 16 fatality crashes. There were 503 injury crashes with 730 people injured. We know inattentive driving, which can be caused by cell phone use, is the most common cause of these crashes. HB 2499 is a narrow approach to improving these statistics and the safety of construction zones in Kansas.

Many states have passed similar laws to restrict the use of cell phones particularly for drivers under the age of 18 and for drivers in construction and school zones. HB 2499 is consistent with laws passed in 30 states to restrict handheld cell phone use.

We know distracted driving is a problem, so we applaud the effort outlined in HB 2499 to help keep Kansans safe, particularly those working and driving in construction zones.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of HB 2499.

Michael White, Executive Director
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2022 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2022

Total Crashes - 1,149	Property Damage Only - 887
Fatal Crashes - 11	Persons Killed - 13
Injury Crashes - 251	Persons Injured - 341

Of the 13 people killed in work zone crashes, **11 were motorists and 2 pedestrians.**

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in **88** percent of all work zone crashes.

The **top 5 contributing circumstances** were inattention, followed too closely, too fast for conditions, right of way violation, and improper lane change.

There were no adverse weather conditions in **90** percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in **73** percent of the crashes

*The **2022** data are incomplete and unofficial at this time.



2021 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2021

Total Crashes - 1,256	Property Damage Only - 972
Fatal Crashes - 5	Persons Killed - 6
Injury Crashes - 279	Persons Injured - 389

Of the 7 people killed in work zone crashes, **all were motorists.**

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in **90** percent of all work zone crashes.

The **top 5 contributing circumstances** were inattention, followed too closely, right of way violation, disregarded signs-signals-markings, too fast for conditions.

There were no adverse weather conditions in **90** percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in **73** percent of the crashes

