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**Testimony to the House Transportation Committee
In Support of HB2680
February 14, 2024**

Chairman Francis and Committee Members:

Our associations support HB2680 creating a traffic infraction for leaving a child under the age of 8 in a vehicle unattended. We have had numerous cases across the state of children being in vehicles while the driver makes a “quick” trip into a convenience store, or similar setting, and someone will jump into the vehicle and take off with the children. While it is usually the intent to steal the vehicle, not to kidnap the children, these cases present a grave risk to the children. We believe such a law will increase the awareness of the risks these situations present and reduce the exposure of children to these dangers. We also believe the traffic infraction level of penalty is appropriate.

We urge you to move the bill forward favorably.

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