

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 1, 2012

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2500

Chairman Hayzlett and Committee Members:

My name is Wesley Ingenthron, and currently I am a senior at Shawnee Mission South High school which is located in Overland Park. I am standing before you in support of House Bill 2500 which would prohibit school bus drivers from talking on their cell phones while operating a school bus except under certain rare circumstances or while using a hands free device. As a high school student I am aware how much a student rides a school bus. It is not uncommon that a student would ride a school bus three times a day or more. House Bill 2500 is extremely important for protection of students' safety. There has been scientific studies showing that talking on a cell phone while driving is more dangerous than driving under the influence of a blood alcohol level of .08 percent, which is above the Kansas legal limit. I find it completely necessary that the Kansas Legislature should enact House Bill 2500 restricting the harmful action of school bus drivers talking on their cell phone. I ask for all of the Transportation committee members for support in protecting the safety of students and in preventing destructive actions of school bus drivers by passing House Bill 2500.

Thank you all for your time.