



February 6, 2017

Re: Kansas DUI Impact Center –HB 2104 Support

Dear Rep. Jene Vickery and House Committee on Insurance Members,

The Kansas DUI Impact Center is a nonprofit organization that has served Kansans statewide since 1987, and supports HB 2104 which increases minimum liability insurance requirements. It is our mission to serve victims of vehicular crime committed under the influence of drugs and alcohol (DUI) with advocacy and support, while preventing future DUI crime by educating offenders convicted of DUI, and increasing awareness through community outreach in the interest of public safety.

Like you, our organization is committed to improving the lives of Kansans many of which are victimized by impaired drivers annually. In 2014, in Kansas, there were 1,099 alcohol related motor vehicle crashes, 206 of them happened in Sedgwick County which had by far, approximately 33%, more alcohol related crashes than any other county in Kansas. In 2015, 43 Kansans were killed in alcohol related crashes, and 457 others were injured, reports the Kansas Department of Transportation. Kansas' legislative representatives are highly desired partners in support of our agency's mission to serve Kansans affected by impaired driving, and to eliminate impaired driving crashes through increased awareness.

On Sunday, December 4th 2016, our agency held a candle light vigil for 230 Kansans memorializing loved ones seriously injured, or killed by impaired drivers. Annually, the Kansas DUI Impact Center provides thousands of direct victim services such as: support group, victim advocacy, case coordination, and crisis management to Kansans overwhelmed by impaired drivers. On behalf of the DUI victims served by the Kansas DUI Impact Center, I am respectfully requesting your support in serving members of our community whose financial stability, physical health, and emotional wellbeing have been devastated by tragic DUI crashes through increased insurance minimum requirements.

Each time we travel our roadways we are at risk of victimization, impaired driving affects us all. Your support of HB 2104 initiates an exponentially positive residual effect on the community at large. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Andrie Krahl MBA
Executive Director

Mission

To serve victims and their families while increasing awareness of the traumatic consequences of impaired driving through prevention, education, and community outreach.

Vision

To positively impact social perception of impaired driving, eliminating subsequent serious injury and death, to increase public safety.

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The DUI Impact Center of Kansas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or age in the delivery of services.

The DUI Victim Center of Kansas does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or age in the delivery of services.

Organization Background

The Kansas DUI Impact Center was founded over 25 years ago as the DUI Victim Center of Kansas in Wichita, Kansas and has since focused on providing direct services to all victims of vehicular crime committed under the influence of drugs and alcohol, educating DUI offenders, and increasing awareness through community outreach in the interest of public safety. We are a very small organization with seven (7) regular staff members and three (3) interns usually studying in the fields of criminal justice, forensics, or sociology and psychology. We are heavily reliant on volunteers, we have about 100 active volunteers who are the heartbeat of our organization and give selflessly to those in need.

In summary, our Victim Advocates provide direct victim support through support groups, visitation in home or hospital, with wellness correspondence calls, emails, cards, letters to victims to help them through their recovery process, court accompaniment and assistance navigating our judicial process, case tracking and monitoring, transportation and childcare for court appearances to hundreds of victims annually. Our volunteers assist advocates with many of these functions, and also speak in public forum statewide about their personal DUI fatality or serious injury crashes in the interest of prevention and education in schools across Kansas. Our school based DUI education and prevention programs are critical in creating positive awareness of under-age drinking and impaired driving within the next generation. We hold DUI victim panels for educating offenders convicted of DUI, as well as minors in possession or consumption of alcohol, referred to our agency by courts all over the state.

Agency Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIQ5qoI54zY>

The Kansas DUI Impact Center purchased this headstone for 19 year old Nathan Barnhart in October 2015. His mother was previously unable to afford one, as result of the financial hardship created by his death. His grave had been unmarked since he was killed by an impaired driver in January 2012. This very reasonable expense meant the entire world to the Barnhart family.

