

## Testimony Concerning SB 144 - Payne

My name is Rick and I am a member of the JOHNSON COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS CLUB, : <http://www.w0erh.org/>

Last Friday I heard about the proposed SB144 KS Bill. I read it and would like the Transportation Committee to carefully consider the wording of the bill.

A little background. - There are three licenses issued by the FCC for Amateur radio operators. In order of difficulty, they are Technician, General, and Extra. I am an Extra. There are hundreds of questions we study for. We do not pay the FCC for the license. The FCC freely grants the license to Amateurs who pass the tests. We have to study and learn the proper way to use radios. Safe operation is a major concern of the FCC. It took me over a year to pass all the tests. WE ARE NOT CB'r or FRS / GMRS licensees. Those people just mail in an application and a fee, if even that.

Amateur radios are constructed with microphones that block out as much ambient noise as possible which results in needing to hold them fairly close to the mouth and thus, cannot be operated completely hands free.

Amateur Radio Operators help with many public service events. From public events and the safety of the people attending them to Storm chasers. Storm chasers help the weather service verify tornados on the ground with visual confirmation.

During walking and running events people lose their children, fall and break their hand or ankles, need medical assistance, lose their friends and family, lose their car or a ride home.

During fundraisers like MS 150 there are over 80 Amateur Radio volunteers. The same goes for Bikers for Babies. And so many other events that I cannot list them here.

Many Amateur Radio operators are members of volunteer groups  
ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Service  
SATURN - Salvation Army Team Emergency Network  
MARS - Military Auxiliary Radio System  
RACES - Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services  
Many of these groups are safely working in extreme weather conditions.

Here are some untended consequence of SB144 as it is written.

As an example, during an event like the MS 150 Bike Ride for multiple sclerosis, are the Amateur Radio Operators supposed to suspend all communications while traveling in a construction zone? Even if it is safe to do so: clear weather and no workers around? Road construction zones can last for miles and in metro areas may even span several years!

For instance, Bikers for Babies. Are Amateur operators on motorcycles supposed to stop all communications with each others and the radio controller while riding through possibly miles of a construction zone?

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Have Amateur Radio Operators caused accidents in school zones? I don't think so. Why are we being punished for being good stewards of the public's safety?

Texting is the safety distraction issue you are looking for.

We do not (cannot) text with Amateur Radios while driving. We do not dictate text's while driving on Amateur radios. It is impossible to send texts to other phones or receive text's from phones. We are responsible as to when to talk and when to wait till it is safer. This is usually in heavy traffic on the highway. As an Amateur Radio operator, I have heard fellow Amateur Radio Operators say, the traffic is pretty heavy here so I will get back to you when it is safer. That's example of what we do. We are already responsible. We do not need more regulations preventing us from using our radio operator's license.

Freedom creep happens little by little when our freedom is eroded by laws that do not need to be applied to responsible citizens.

Amateur Radios Operators are very responsible. We do not have accidents while driving in School zones or construction zones. Is there any evidence otherwise? There are 7,390 Amateur Radio Operators in KS. Go after the millions of people that text while driving not us. WE ARE NOT THE PROBLEM! We have been out there before Cell phones were able to text. Before Cell Phones were invented!

I can understand KS State Congress wanting to make School zones and Construction zones safer. So go after the irresponsible drivers that are distracted by texting instead of responsible Amateur Radio Operators.

Amateur Radio Operators do not text. We do not take our eyes off the road while talking. It's just like the police and other emergency responder services.

\*\*\*Petition from Richard Payne\*\*\*\*

On the first page of SB144, about line 19 is where the following wording should be considered.

Ref: The provisions of subsection (b) **shall not apply to:**

**Persons that hold an FCC-issued Amateur Operator License.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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