

March 15, 2017

Re: Testimony on Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation Bill 140

Honorable Caryn Tyson and Committee Members,

Thank you for your service and giving us this opportunity. As a constituent of Kansas' District #14, I am respectfully requesting your support of SB 140, which gives The Kansas DUI Impact Center a State Tax Exemption

I have been a volunteer for sometime and was surprised to learn we were not exempt. It has been estimated the agency spent a mere \$1,000-1,200 in retail sales tax in 2016. If given exempt status we could allocate this amount towards program services benefitting individuals, families affected by DUI crime and other citizens of our state.

Over the years, I have been actively involved with grassroots organizations to address the problem of impaired driving through prevention, intervention and public policy.

This will be the 36th anniversary year of the loss of our first son, Scott killed by an impaired female driver. Scott, the first grandson on both sides of our family, never had the opportunity to celebrate one birthday, see spring or play ball with daddy. I am an example of whom the agency strives to help. It would have been helpful to have them as a resource through our process.

I continue to volunteer because it is important families know we are there for them, a valuable resource. In 2016 The Kansas DUI Impact Center provided 1,778 advocacy services. Volunteers provided over 2300 hours to further our mission of providing services to victims and their families and increase awareness of the traumatic consequences of impaired driving. We will be needed until every individual decides the price to drive under the influence is too high.

I share the story of Scott on DUI Victim Impact panels for court ordered offenders. It is amazing to see their before and after attitudes - once you put a human face to it is hard for them to ignore the choices and consequences of their actions. Our victim volunteers reached over 2700 impaired driving offenders. These are programs that are making a difference. Sharing is not exactly a fun activity - it is still a grief that can rip to my core. But if I didn't think it made a difference I wouldn't continue to do it.

Please help us help others by granting our request for State Sales Tax Exemption.

Respectfully,

Wanda Stewart

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