



**February 14, 2017**  
**Testimony in Opposition of SB123**  
**Submitted by Christopher Mann and LeAnn Briggs**  
**MADD Volunteers and Drunk Driving Victims**

Honorable Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary thank you for the opportunity to address you in opposition of Senate Bill 123. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) urges the Kansas Senate Judiciary Committee to vote against SB123. SB123 would destroy the life-saving ignition interlock law established in Kansas in July 2011. Since that time, interlocks have stopped 60,000 attempts just in the State of Kansas to drive drunk with an illegal blood alcohol concentration of .08 or greater. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), drunk driving deaths have also dropped in Kansas thanks in part to the interlock law by 37 percent.

Throughout the nation, all-offender interlock laws have proven to be instrumental in cutting the number of drunk driving crashes, injuries and fatalities. Research indicates that requiring an ignition interlock for all drunk driving offenders reduces repeat offenses by two-thirds and significantly cuts the number of drunk driving deaths. The law requires a DUI offender to install an ignition interlock, or in-car breathalyzer device. The driver must blow into the device to prove he/she is sober before the car will start.

**Ignition Interlock Facts:**

- Ignition interlocks are effective in reducing repeat drunk driving offenses by 67 percent. (CDC)
- First time offenders have driven drunk at least 80 times before they are arrested. (CDC)
- An ignition interlock is more effective than license suspension alone, as 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive on a suspended license.
- All-offender interlock laws save lives reducing drunk driving deaths by 7, 12 and 15 percent. (McGinty, 2017. IIHS, 2012. Kaufmann, 2016.)
- Kansas has an indigent fund to help low income individuals afford the program.

Every day in America, another 28 people die as a result of drunk driving crashes. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration FARS data, 2014). Kansas tax payers subsidize approximately \$510 million every year for drunk driving fatalities. (MADD 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report to the Nation). Arguments regarding the cost considerations of a small number of offenders pale in comparison to the enormous burden on our state and our citizens of drunk driving fatalities alone. This does not even account for the 1200 drunk driving injuries that occur in Kansas every year, resulting in medical bills, lost productivity and other potential life-altering consequences.

This bill benefits no one. Our citizens deserve better. MADD strongly urges a vote against this bill.

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