



KANSAS APPLESEED
Justice for all.

TESTIMONY OF DJUAN WASH
ADVOCATE
KANSAS APPLESEED CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE
BEFORE THE KANSAS SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 5

FEBRUARY 19, 2016

My name is Djuan Wash; I am an advocate for the Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that advocates for systemic solutions for the problems facing vulnerable or disadvantaged Kansans.

In a state like Kansas, having a driver's license for working individuals is a necessity. The lack of viable and dependable alternative transportation often requires individuals to own a car in order to get to work, school, the doctor, the grocery store, or church and to go about the general business of taking care of themselves and their families. The lack of a driver's license often makes it nearly impossible to gain and keep a job.

Unfortunately, a very large number of Kansans have had their licenses suspended simply for unpaid fines and fees. According to statistics from the Kansas Department of Revenue, currently more than 100,000 Kansans have had their driver's license suspended due to unpaid tickets. In my home county, Sedgwick, alone, more than 18,000 people have had their license suspended simply because of unpaid tickets, often caused by the family's inability to pay.

The current Kansas law is overly burdensome: People have to be able to get to work to take care of themselves and their families. I urge you to pass Senate Bill 5 to provide relief to the more than 100,000 Kansans who need a driver's license in order to be contributing members of our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Djuan Wash
Advocate
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice