



KANSAS EMS ASSOCIATION

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Unity Is Strength

To: Senate Transportation Committee
RE: HB 2095
Date: March 13, 2017
From: Brandon Beck, President, KEMSA

The Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association (KEMSA) is the professional association representing the paramedics, EMTs and ambulance services serving the citizens of Kansas. KEMSA works on various regulatory and legislative matters as well as conferences and educational programs.

KEMSA opposes HB 2095.

KEMSA has a policy opposing adding any additional weight to the trucks already on our roads, regardless of the number of axles. In specific, we are writing today in opposition to House Bill 2095. If you allow heavier trucks, those trucks tend to exhibit decreased acceleration and deceleration, which can impede traffic and cause accidents. Increasing truck weight is likely to result in a truck with a higher center of gravity, leading to more rollover accidents. Additional weight also makes it more likely that the truck's safety equipment, including brakes, suspension and tires, will wear out at a faster pace.

As first responders to many of these accidents, we have seen firsthand the dangers associated with tractor-trailer accidents. We feel that any additional weight to these trucks will turn minor accidents into serious accidents and serious accidents into more fatalities. In this opposition, we are joined by the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) and thousands of our colleagues across our state and our nation.

We respectfully ask that you oppose HB 2095 that would increase truck weight.