



PROPONENT TESTIMONY ON HB 2003

TESTIMONY OF

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KANSAS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS

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Thank you, Chair Barker, and members of the Committee for affording us the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2003.

My name is Alex Martinez and I am a field organizer at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Kansas. The American Civil Liberties Union of Kansas is a non-partisan, non-political membership organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening the constitutional liberties afforded to every resident of Kansas. We work to preserve and strengthen our constitutional rights and freedoms through policy advocacy, litigation, and education. We proudly serve over 40,000 supporters in Kansas and represent more than 1.7 million supporters nationwide.

I am in front of this committee because I care deeply about this issue. As an Immigration Organizer and an immigrant myself, I see firsthand the need for policies like this. People want to participate, they came to this country for opportunities, we have the power to give that to them. Being able to drive legally gives everyone a chance to participate in the basic functions our society. The economy and our community can benefit from HB 2003. We urge you to support it for these five reasons:

- 1) Driving in the state of Kansas is an essential part of life.**
 - a) Being able to drive legally gives everyone a chance to participate in the basic functions of family, public life, and the economy.
- 2) Licensed drivers become more knowledgeable about traffic laws, purchase insurance and register their vehicles, all of which can result in greater savings in automobile insurance premiums for all Kansas drivers.**
 - a) Newly licensed drivers will be able to secure insurance, reducing the cost of covering accidents involving uninsured motorists and potentially reducing insurance rates for everyone
- 3) Police, first responders, and health care providers will be able to use licenses to identify motorists they are assisting and check their traffic records.**
 - a) Drivers will be more likely to stay at the scene of an accident to aid police and emergency workers and to exchange insurance information with other affected motorists.
- 4) Courts and jails would be less burdened by drivers who are there solely for driving without a license or insurance.**
 - a) Kansas has a mass incarceration issue and we do not need to keep saturating our jails with more people who commit minor infractions.
- 5) A limited driver's license provides a way to drive legally for those who struggle to access documents.**
 - a) proving citizenship is an undue burden to participating in democracy. It is also an undue burden for obtaining a driver's license. Driving is a non-negotiable part of life in Kansas, and residents want to make sure they are driving legally. Removing the document requirements to prove

status or citizenship means that many who don't have access to a birth certificate or a passport can still legally operate a vehicle and go about their daily life.

In summary, **HB 2003 ensures everyone's safety**. By offering a way to drive legally, Kansas could ensure that people do not drive who do not have the skills, who could not pass a driving test, and who would be a risk to others on the road. Increasing access for driver's licenses to people, regardless of documentation status, **makes Kansas roads and communities safer**.