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Kansas House of Representatives Judiciary Committee
Honorable Chairperson, and Honorable Members of this Committee,
The Most Honorable Representative Gail Finney
RE: Letter in Support of HB 2434

Greetings:

I am grateful for this committee's work on the issue of driving privileges in the State of Kansas. My name is David H. Wilkinson owner of Wilkinson Consulting Group and Senior Associate with Justice Concepts Inc. My awareness of how driving privileges affect Kansans is generated from various perspectives. Firstly let me frame my comments by the notion that today's economy, demands on personal time and overall complexity of life require one to have mobility. Lack of mobility can be a barrier to economic success affecting all aspects of our lives. I applaud this committee's work on removing barriers to Kansans' ability to operate motor vehicles.

My work for law firms as a paralegal deeply informs my insight. Over time I literally saw hundreds of clients who had, for various reasons suspended or revoked licenses. Often and generally at the risk of going to jail they continued to drive. Sadly this choice puts at risk their freedom. However the need to drive to go to work, school and care for their families trumped the risk of going to jail. In fact I know citizens of Kansas who have driven for decades without a driver's license. And have essentially given up on the idea of driving legitimately.

These people are not criminals but everyday Kansans who are unable rectify their driving status usually due to economic reasons. And this one act leads to numerous others ways they are marginalized and live outside of the norms we expect. Such as owning a car is not possible so they put this in another's name, or tagging the car or insuring the vehicle. We know that not allowing alternative actions people are marginalized and begin down a road that further alienates them from full participation in the fabric of society. And while we do not condone this the fact is that people will do what they must do to survive.

Today your actions have long-term impacts and many multiplier effects for Kansas families. Let's work together to insure that all Kansans regardless of economic status have the opportunity to fully participate in the life of their communities. And today by creating a pathway to restoring driving privileges you are doing just that. Removing barriers for those with revoked or suspended driving privileges has the potential to bring our estranged citizens back into the mainstream of our culture. I appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration of this statute.

Truly Yours,

David H. Wilkinson, M.A., M.S.
Wilkinson Consulting Group LLC

