

Dear Chair Patton, Vice Chair Ralph and members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to ask you to pass House Bill 2434 out of committee and to the full House. I believe this bill accomplishes several important objectives – a few of which I have outlined below.

Suspending a driver's license has a severe impact on a person's ability to maintain employment and perform crucial tasks – including child care. This acts as an additional barrier for people who are already struggling financially. Our goal should not be to present additional barriers, but to ensure people have the access they need to succeed.

The current policy also redirects law enforcement and court staff away from public safety issues. Our priority for enforcement should be focused on crimes against people. With both the state budget and many county budgets very tight it is crucial that our focus should be on public safety and not punishment over a small fee.

Finally, this policy is bad for the taxpayer. Statistics show that many of the fines are never collected. Allocating resources to maintain this policy does make sense for the state and its budget. As someone who pays a Kansas income tax, I ask that these funds be spent in a more efficient manner.

Please vote yes on HB 2434 and return common-sense to this policy. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

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