

February 10, 2021

Virtual Testimony of Jean Souliere, CEO BusPatrol, in support of HB 2154

Kansas House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary

Representative Fred Patton, Chair

Good afternoon Representative Patton and members of the committee. My name is Jean Souliere, and I am CEO and founder of BusPatrol.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak for a few minutes about a serious problem that is risking the lives of children throughout the country. The frequency with which drivers are recklessly passing school buses that are dropping off and picking up students is increasing at an alarming rate. In April of 2020, the National Transportation Safety Board published a report recommending that every state in America pass laws that enable automated stop-arm enforcement programs to protect the children of America.

In 2019, 39 states participated in a survey of 131,000 bus drivers. The survey found nearly 100,000 violations or 73 violations for every bus that participated in the survey. If you extrapolate that across the entire school year, we estimate nearly 20 million violations per year in America.

We encourage you to support Hb 2154 as it provides the framework for Kansas schools to increase the safety of children by implementing stop-arm violation monitoring systems on busses.

We would like to describe how today's monitoring systems work. As you know, cameras have existed on buses for years. The problem is, accessing the videos from those cameras has been difficult. Student transportation technicians must physically pull a hard drive, plug that hard drive into a computer, and search through files to be able to find a video that has been requested by a parent or a superintendent. Sometimes, the DVR failed, and no video is available.

To address the inconsistency in data and ease of access to data, BusPatrol created and implemented new technology. The core of BusPatrol's stop-arm enforcement technology is an AI engine, her name is Ava. Ava has the ability to monitor traffic around a school bus up to eight lanes away, in a variety of lighting and weather conditions. The system is automated to the bus and not dependent on drivers. Drivers need only focus on driving. Our camera technology has 4K resolution making identification of vehicles easier and more reliable. We cloud connect our infrastructure, so people may access videos from the comfort of their office. Not only can technicians access it over the cloud, but BusPatrol

has given technicians the capabilities to select a particular camera, on a particular day and time to address what ever situation arises.

Under the proposed bill, the data collected by Ava (on board bus collection system) would be made available to the Kansas Board of Education for the designated official to review, determine whether a violation occurred, and process a citation.

If requested, we can provide a web link for offenders or the owner of the vehicle to go online and see a video of their car passing a stopped school bus. In our experience, 95 percent of people who view that evidence pay their citation immediately. Another 4 percent of people will pay between 60 and 90 days of the offense, leaving less than 1 percent of people who contest the citation.

We also offer additional services to enhance safety on the bus through interior cameras for the driver to monitor children or notification systems that allow the driver to quickly contact authorities in case of an accident.

By equipping every single school bus in a community and catching every driver who carelessly passes that school bus and issuing a citation, the communities we serve have experienced a reduction in stop-arm violations of 30 percent year over year.

We could spend an hour explaining the technology and successes communities have with it but know that time is limited. We welcome the opportunity to visit with any of you to discuss the details. In summary, we support the adoption of HB 2154 and commend Kansas for taking another step to advance school bus safety.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

To learn more about BusPatrol and see the system work go to <https://www.buspatrol.com>