

STATE OF KANSAS



Senator Elaine Bowers
DISTRICT 36

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB506
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 16, 2022

To the House Transportation Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB506 for the Kansas down syndrome awareness license plate. Shella Thoman could not be here today so I'm happy to step in and testify. I would like you to refer to her testimony as the North Central Downs Syndrome Society as they requested the bill on behalf of the society. NCKDS will be the host agency to financially support the tag. As you will see in Shella's testimony, they are well on their way for the 250 required tags with their outreach.

Please note the multiple agencies supporting individuals with Down syndrome and their families including the North Central Kansas Down Syndrome Society, the Down Syndrome Society of Wichita, the Northwest Kansas Down Syndrome Society, the Flint Hills Down Syndrome Families Group, Kansans in Down Syndrome Support, Down Syndrome Innovations and the Southeast Kansas Down Syndrome Society. As you can see, there is a support group in nearly every area of Kansas.

This tag will give the family another opportunity to voice support for our families and friends who have experience with Down syndrome; to raise awareness and improve the public attitudes and acceptance of those with Down syndrome. Kansas would join at least 12 other States, including Oklahoma and Nebraska, who currently have a Down Syndrome license plate so thank you for your consideration to add Kansas to the list.

I might add SB506 was amended in the Senate Transportation committee changing the title of the bill from ***Providing for the north central Kansas down syndrome society distinctive license plate*** to the **Kansas down syndrome awareness license plate** to clarify the bill would be for the entire state of Kansas and passed 40-0 on March 9th. This Senate version, I believe it is a consent calendar item unless your committee chooses to amend it into another bill.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Elaine Bowers
Senate District #36