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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2377  
RELATING TO DUI LAWS**

**March 24, 2021**

Madam Chairwoman and Committee Members:

Good morning Madam Chair and members of the committee. I am Joel Skelley, Director of Policy, with The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide testimony in opposition of House Bill 2377 which provides many changes to current DUI statutes. KDOT's only opposition to this bill is centered on one set of changes the bill makes which will take the state out of compliance with federal regulations for repeat DUI offender penalties. The bill strikes language in 3 locations of existing state law for felony offenses removing a minimum sentence required by federal regulations.

The current language in the bill will cause the state of Kansas to fall out of compliance with U.S.C. Section 164, Repeat DUI offender minimum sanctions. KDOT would lose flexibility with the federal funding we receive in the National Highway Performance Program and Surface Transportation Program. Falling out compliance with this federal regulation will result in a transfer of about \$8.6 million annually out of our federally funded core diverse infrastructure program and move it into a more restrictive pot of funding. KDOT is supportive of the amended language proposed by the Kansas Judicial Council to keep the state in federal compliance.

In Kansas, impaired driving fatalities account for about 25 percent of all traffic deaths annually. Positive enhancements to our current DUI laws should provide safer roads for everyone and hold offenders consistently accountable. Compliance based removal of an ignition interlock and striving to get DUI offenders into the ignition interlock program sooner after arrest are some positive strides in the right direction. As such, KDOT is supportive of the rest of the bill to enhance Kansas DUI laws.

KDOT would respectfully request House Bill 2377 be amended to include the suggested language related to minimum penalties for repeat DUI offenses to keep the state in compliance with federal regulations. I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.