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**State of Kansas
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Chairman Rep. Proehl
Kansas House Transportation Committee

Re: Testimony HB 275 / Suspended Licenses / Proponent

Thank you, Chairman Proehl and Committee for this chance to provide support testimony on behalf of SB 275 which would remove the requirement that an individual who is found to be driving on a suspended or revoked license would receive an additional suspension or revocation period of 90 days and remove the requirement that in order for an individual to qualify for a restricted driver's license, the individual could not have previously received a stayed suspension upon a conviction of driving while suspended.

Suspended driver's licenses are also a huge barrier for citizens of Kansas especially those who live in rural areas. Suspensions can keep unsafe drivers off the road but also can prevent people who haven't committed serious crimes from working, getting their children to school and getting out of debt. It also harms employers, who lose access to a sufficient workforce when their employees cannot get to work.

As of October 22, 2019, there were 139,661 licenses suspended for unpaid tickets and 30,004 restricted driver's licenses according to the Kansas Department of Revenue Division of Vehicles. Nationwide, Kansas is ranked number five for the most suspended driver's licenses according to Insurify, a car insurance quote website. The percent of drivers with suspended/revoked license is 4.94%, out of 2,2028,657 licensed drivers, and 980,359 registered automobiles. The other nine states in ascending order are ND, OH, IA, NB, MN, IA, ID, WI and OR.

In the past two years, several states have taken action to reform their suspensions including MT, TX, VA, MI, CA, IA, MA and DC. A driver's license is essential. Suspending driver's licenses for unpaid fees punishes the working poor and it is counterproductive.

SB 275, if passed, would help alleviate some of the financial burden placed on suspended drivers, not DUI suspended. It may not seem like a lot of money to some, but to many, these few changes would make the difference in trying to get a restricted license or their license back, versus giving up and continuing to drive without a license.

According to the Free to Drive Campaign, which is supported by conservative and liberal leaning organizations, 83% of Americans driving a car multiple times a week, many continue driving even though they risk a criminal conviction, more fines and fees and incarceration.

We need to get our non-DUI suspended driver's back to driving legally again in Kansas. I encourage you to support the passage of SB 275.

Committees: Financial Institutions Ins. & Pensions, Local Government, Transp. & Public Safety Budgets