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JUSTICE OVERSIGHT

February 15, 2024

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 500

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau
Proponent Testimony for SB-500
Senate Committee on Judiciary

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB-500

Good morning, Madame Chair Kellie Warren, Vice-chair Senator Wilborn, Ranking Member Senator Corson and other esteemed members of the committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 500.

A few years ago, we passed a law allowing individuals with a suspended driving license to apply for a restricted license within the Department of Revenue, in order to drive to work, school, church, court and doctor appointments while maintaining car insurance and making payments on traffic fines. The Department of Revenue\Drivers Control reports that many have applied and received a restrictive license and fines are collected locally and on the state level. And, that's a 'Win' 'Win'. However, many applicants were denied for various reasons. Therefore, I began tracking current law and I attended a Suspended Driver License Workshop as a panelist, with the Wichita Police Chief and Attorneys, along with the Racial Profiling Board and a staff person with Drivers Control who participated over the phone during the workshop and answered questions from almost 300 people in attendance. And what we discovered during the workshop was that, the main reason some individuals could not participate in the current program allowing them to receive a restricted license, was due to the "revoked" status.

This bill will include drivers with certain conditions and will help so many people affected by this issue by allowing them to drive back and forth to work, school, etc., while making payments towards their fines. It will also remove other barriers that prevent reinstatement regarding driver licenses, which you'll hear about from other conferees here today. I truly believe that without your help, it's very unlikely that some Kansans, because of the high traffic fines that have accumulated for them over the years, they will never be able to drive legally again.

I appreciate your time and attention and your consideration of SB-500.

Thank you, Senator Faust-Goudeau