



# RACIAL PROFILING ADVISORY BOARD OF WICHITA



## Testimony in Support of SB 2

Presented by Sheila Officer, Chair Racial Profiling Advisory Board

Revoking a driver's license should be used *to keep unsafe drivers off the road*, not as a **“debt collection tool”**, that has proven to be UNPRODUCTIVE, and punitive!

Can **you** as a legislator, and providing family member imagine having no dependable, viable, continuous legal means of transportation to go about your everyday tasks? i.e., getting to work, kids to school, grocery store, doctor's appointment?

Well now, imagine the **thousands** of Kansans who struggle with this **dilemma daily; how can I transport my family with no DL?** Families having to choose whether to drive and risk further arrest, prosecution, incarceration, and yes, more, financial debt; or **don't drive** and contribute to the increased poverty cycle, downfall, and separation of your family?

*And WHY? Because you are a safety risk to the roads? NO, because you cannot afford to pay the fines, fees, and other State assessed financial debt demanded against you to get your license back.*

*And WHY? Because there are no provisions from the courts or the legislature that provide a motorist with a REVOKED license, financial relief which allows you to maintain and sustain your family by economic opportunities, which the ability to drive provides.*

- *I support SB2, and adamantly and urgently ask that you support it and pass it as well.*

*And WHY? Because it gives Kansans with REVOKED license financial relief; Because it gives Kansans with REVOKED license an opportunity to apply for “hardship license” which when received, will increase greater economic opportunities that will eliminate the poverty cycle, and increase the possibility of satisfying fine, fees, etc.; Because it is **“commonsense legislation.”***

*As a member of this committee, if you are still in doubt about the impact SB 2 will have on the thousands of Kansas families, ask yourself these questions before you vote:*

- 1) *How will your yes or no vote impact the communities that sent you here?*
- 2) *Are driver license suspensions/revocations related to dangerous driving, or safety of the road; and is this the State's main concern when revoking driving privileges?*
- 3) *If states want people to pay their fines, tickets, and fees, then why is the state applying a barrier which prevents people to work to do just that?*
- 4) *Has revocation and suspension of DL made Kansas more financially solvent?*

*Revocation of DL is **“bad public policy.”** Policy that is **detrimental, devastating, punitive** and **poverty driven** to Kansas families.*

*I urge and request this legislative body to support, work and pass SB 2 for more **“commonsense legislation”**.*

*Thank you.*

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