



**Testimony in Support of HB 2499
Senate Committee on Transportation
March 7, 2024**

Chairman Petersen and Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation:

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Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony supporting this bill prohibiting the use of a mobile telephone while operating a vehicle in a school zone or road construction zone or by individuals under 18 years of age. My name is Chrissy Mayer, and I am the Chief Community-Based Services Officer at DCCCA. We provide a variety of social services including supporting transportation safety efforts through the contract for the Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office. With our traffic safety work, our goal is to provide public information and education to protect Kansans from avoidable injury or death on Kansas roadways. DCCCA has served Kansas communities, children, and families for nearly 50 years.

School zones and construction zones require drivers to be even more attentive to their surroundings. DCCCA works diligently to provide education on the importance of avoiding distractions while driving, but more is needed. Passing legislation to prohibit the use of cellular devices for ALL individuals in these zones is a critical piece of ensuring the safety of pedestrians in school zones and workers in construction zones.

Currently the Graduated Driver License (GDL) restrictions cover young people until they can receive their full license at age 17. Between the ages of 17 and 18, there is no guidance for use of a cellular device while driving. Most states have laws restricting handheld use by drivers under the age of 18. There are approximately 15,000 crashes annually in Kansas due to distracted driving. Adding additional regulations for drivers under the age of 18 will help reduce distractions for inexperienced drivers.

Thank you for your time today. I encourage you to support prohibiting the use of a mobile telephone while operating a vehicle in a school zone or road construction zone or by individuals under the age of 18 to support the health and well-being of all Kansans.

Respectfully submitted,

Chrissy Mayer
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