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My name is Jennifer Harvey. I live in Haysville, KS which is 3 miles south of Wichita in Sedgwick County. I am here to support HB 2506. I am here to tell my story. I have not had a driver's license since 1998 and am currently revoked until 2014. In the beginning, my license was suspended for not paying tickets and not carrying liability insurance on my motor vehicle. I was young and just starting out on my own and did not have the money to pay the fines. I continued to drive and continued to receive citations for driving while suspended and failure to carry liability insurance. In 2005, I started paying off old tickets and serving the jail time that I was sentenced to. Since I had received 3 major moving violations in a 5 year period, I was revoked for 3 years. On January 11, 2011 I appeared in district court to settle the remaining outstanding citations and was sentenced to a year of reporting probation and a hefty fine, which I completed and paid off. This led me to another revocation period of 3 years.

My husband and I purchased motorized bicycles in 2010 due to being told by Wichita law enforcement that we did not need a driver's license to operate this vehicle as long as it was under 50cc. We have been pulled over by Haysville police and told that we could not operate these motorized bicycles on public streets. After the officer spoke with his supervisor, we were told that since the statutes were conflicting and there was some confusion about whether we needed a driver's license the officer was letting us go. In 2011, my husband and I were coming home from my place of employment on our motorized bicycles and were stopped in a DUI check lane. We were given citations for driving while revoked, driving while suspended and as a habitual violator. The highway patrol informed us we needed a class C driver's license that was restricted to motorized bicycles. The citations were later dropped. After doing some research, we found that a person can obtain a restricted class C driver's license if such person is suspended for anything other than a DUI. The language of the statutes does not include revocations.

This is my story. I am only one of thousands in Wichita that are in a position of waiting out my revocation time. My revocation does not stem from an alcohol related conviction, just from being irresponsible and not taking care of the citations in a timely manner. I have tried to pull my life together and assume responsibility for my actions. I currently attend Wichita State University and will be graduating May 2012 with a Bachelors of General Studies with an emphasis on Criminal Justice and a minor in Psychology. I have been accepted into the Masters program for Criminal Justice for the fall term. Wichita State University is approximately 15 miles one way and operating my motorized bicycle is the only way I am able to continue to further my education.

Since we live in a suburb of Wichita, the closest city bus stop is a mile and a half from my house. Taxis do not come down to Haysville without an outrageous charge. Legally, I am not able to drive a motor vehicle to get to and from work and school. Utilizing my motorized bicycle is the way for me to complete the daily tasks of life without driving a motor vehicle.

I am not asking for leniency for breaking the law and fully agree that if a person breaks the law then they should suffer the consequences. Operating a motorized bicycle is still punishment because they should not be ridden on a street that has a speed limit of over 40 mph and are subject to the weather conditions. I am simply asking to give me and other people who are in my situation, with a revocation, a chance to get out of the criminal justice system by allowing persons who have paid their fines, finished out their sentences, and just have time left, to obtain a class C driver's license restricted to operating a motorized bicycle. If this bill is not passed, it could hinder those of us who are trying to become productive citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to share my story.