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**Testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee
In Support of HB2439
February 6, 2018**

Chairman Wilborn and Committee Members,

In 2011, the Kansas Legislature enacted a bill encompassing many of the recommendations of the Kansas DUI Commission with the intent of reducing alcohol related accidents, injuries, and deaths on our roadways. In subsequent years some additional recommendations were passed into law. The results have been positive. From 2012 to 2016 DUI related crashes have dropped nearly 20%; DUI related fatality crashes are down 16.5%; and DUI related injury crashes are down 30%. DUI related fatalities are down 17.5% and DUI related injuries are down 32%.¹

A big part of the DUI Commission recommendations that have led to this reduction includes the expanded use of administrative sanctions against DUI offenders including ignition interlock devices and driver's license sanctions.

While the above data looks very positive, there is more work to be done. In 2016 there were still 2,211 alcohol related crashes in Kansas involving 3,952 people of which 85 died and 1162 were injured.²

During the same time frame as the DUI reductions cited above, there is another area of data that shows a growing problem. From 2012 to 2016, the number of drivers who have been convicted of a new DUI violation while suspended from a prior DUI increased by 247%.³ These are DUI convictions with or without a crash being involved and with or without a resulting injury or death.

This bill is designed to address the worst results of this growing negative DUI trend, needless deaths of innocent people at the hands of a DUI offender currently under a DUI related administrative sanction of their driving privileges. The House amendments further strengthen it by including the many people seriously injured by these repeat offenders. The offenders not only have made the choice to drive while intoxicated, but to do so while violating active driver's license sanctions.

We support this bill as amended by the House and strongly encourage you to move this bill forward with a positive recommendation.

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¹ 2016 Annual Accidents Fact Book, Kansas Department of Transportation

² same

³ Compiled from data supplied by Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Vehicles 1/5/2018.