

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

Office:
State Capitol, 451- S
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-7649
Gail.Finney@house.ks.gov



Gail A. Finney
Representatives, 84th District

Home:
1754 N. Madison Ave.
Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 768-0615

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Chairman Mike Peterson
Kansas Senate Transportation Committee

Re: Testimony SB 5 / Proponent

Thank you, Chairman Petersen, and Committee for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 5 to make certain individuals eligible for restricted driving privileges.

Passage of this bill is very important to many Kansans that have desperately tried to repair their driving privileges. I have personally witnessed hundreds of Kansans participate in different Driver's Hardship Workshops trying to obtain restricted driver's licenses to go to and from work, school, church, doctors, probation offices, etc. and in some cases, pay fees to be later told that they are still not eligible because they have previously received a stayed suspension because of a driving while suspended conviction.

Continuation of the current stayed suspension barrier in statute, unfortunately, prohibits a lot of people from getting their restricted driver's licenses. It can seriously devastate their livelihood and their families by hurting them financially and economically, because it's very difficult to work when you don't have a driver's license, no one to give you a ride, afford a taxi or Uber ride, or an inefficient bus or rail transit system available to use.

In addition, this tremendous obstacle inadvertently affects some of our most vulnerable and poorest residents because they do not have the resources to try and overcome this significant hurdle. Finally, it also hurts our state financially because when these people cannot effectively work and contribute to their households and they suffer hardships, our state tax base suffers as well.

Please correct this terrible injustice by make this minor repair to the restricted driving privileges statute and help restore dignity and respect to some of our citizens that are trying to make amends and correct their driving status in Kansas. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Finney", written in a cursive style.

Representative Gail Finney
Kansas 84th District
(316) 768-0615