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**Testimony to the House Transportation Committee
Opposing HB2481
January 30, 2020**

Chairman Proehl and Committee Members,

Our associations oppose HB2481 which would allow police vehicles to optionally use blue lights only as their emergency lighting. The key basis for this position includes:

1. Kansans as well as the people from surrounding states, are accustomed to red lights or a combination of blue and red on police vehicles. We believe this will cause confusion for Kansas drivers, especially if relatively few jurisdictions would move to all blue lights.
2. We believe this is unnecessary since current law allows for the use of blue lights now, albeit in combination with red lights.
3. We believe the combination of red and blue lights is better supported by the studies than all blue lights. This takes into consideration studies that show advantages of one color over the other depending on day or night conditions, and studies indicating alternating colors are advantages.
4. Background colors and lights are a significant consideration in determining lighting visibility according to most studies, and it makes sense that multiple colors offer a better opportunity to create a contrast regardless of the lighting or background color scenario.

One of the targets of emergency lighting studies since the mid-1990's is the intensity of lighting as well as the color. This was brought about as LED light bars were introduced into the market. That market has been developing ever since. LED lighting has brought a much higher intensity lighting option, which is one of the key factors in visibility, especially in the daytime.

Like many issues, you can find various studies coming to different conclusions on whether blue or red lights are better. Some studies indicate there is value in using multiple colors. Some studies show blue is more visible at night while red is more visible during daylight. One study often cited in favor of blue lights is the 2008 report conducted by the University of Michigan for the Society of Automobile Engineers International.¹ But even that study references states a recommendation for future study of "more comprehensive data on color effects in daytime and nighttime."

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¹ Effects of Warning Lamp Color and Intensity on Driver Vision
<https://www.sae.org/standardsdev/tsb/cooperative/warninglamp0810.pdf>