

January 22, 2022

RE: Testimony in favor of Senate Bill 332 Chairman Petersen and Committee Members,

As a trauma center, Stormont Vail Health strives to provide the utmost quality care to injured patients. We treat victims of motor vehicle crashes every day, witnessing and attempting to limit the devastating effects these crashes have on our patients and their loved ones. The resulting suffering is not only physical and emotional; motor vehicle crashes also have significant individual and societal financial impact.

Our mission at Stormont Vail Health is “Working together to improve the health of our community.” In trauma care, we focus on providing optimal care of the injured patient, and are dedicated to preventing injuries from ever occurring. Driver distraction is a major cause of crashes. Novice drivers are at the highest risk for distracted driving crashes, while the most vulnerable victims to distracted driving are pedestrians, including those in work and school zones. The CDC describes three main types of distraction: visual (taking eyes off the road), manual (taking hands off the wheel), and cognitive (taking mind off driving.) Hand-held mobile phone use results in all three types of distraction.

It is for these reasons that Stormont Vail Health supports bill 332 “Prohibiting the use of a mobile telephone while operating in school or road construction zone or by individuals less than 18 years of age.” Limiting handheld mobile phone use while driving is a public health measure. We are grateful to the Kansas Senate Transportation Committee for considering SB 332, and respectfully request that members cast favorable votes. Thank you for your support.

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Violence and Injury Prevention Coordinator

Trauma Services