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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2146
RELATING TO THE UNIFORM FINE SCHEDULE FOR TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS**

February 1, 2023

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Joel Skelley, and I am the Director of Policy for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide testimony about House Bill 2146. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and to provide comments.

KDOT is in support of this bill as it relates to safety on our roadways. Traveling at higher speeds decreases a driver's reaction time resulting in an increased likelihood of a vehicle crash. These higher speeds also increase the likelihood a driver and/or others will sustain more severe injuries including fatalities in the event of a crash. KDOT strives to improve the safety and quality of life for the traveling public by reducing the number of motor vehicle fatalities, injuries, and crashes. This bill increases the fine structure as tool to hold offenders accountable and be a deterrent to drivers that are excessively driving above the posted speed limit and putting themselves and everyone else on the road at risk. This bill will support the agency's mission of reducing death and injury on Kansas roads.

In 2021, there was a speed related crash every 1.96 hours. Speed was a contributing factor in 4,479 crashes in that same year. These crashes resulted in 75 fatalities and 1,969 injuries.

This bill would create another tool to help slow down drivers and make them think twice before driving at excessive and dangerous speeds, making us all safer on Kansas Roads.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2146. I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.