

# TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2629

by

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**[Racial Profiling Advisory Board of Wichita](#)**

**It is NOT a CRIME to be POOR.** Yet **over 200,000 Kansans** of **ALL races** have had their driver's license suspended because they did not have enough money to pay \$200 or more for their original traffic fine and court costs within the 30 days required by State statute.

Once their license is suspended, they are basically under "**House Arrest**" with no way to legally drive to work, to church, pick up their kids from school, get groceries or visit their doctor. But, since Kansas rural communities and cities have no reliable public transportation, **these people do what you or I would do—they get in their vehicle and go where they need to go!!**

To make matters worse, the second time they are caught without this piece of paper in their pocket, they have an additional **\$100 fine** to pay plus **five days in jail**. But to really let them know what a bad person they are, if they are caught three or more times in five years without a valid license—then they are labeled a "**habitual violator**" and their license is **REVOKED—PLUS THEY HAVE TO SPEND 90 DAYS IN JAIL AND PAY AN additional \$1,500 fine.**

How is this supposed to make sense??? If they didn't have \$200 to pay the first traffic ticket, how is anyone going to earn money to pay an additional \$1,500 while they are sitting in jail for 90 days?? This is cruel and unusual punishment by any definition.

Furthermore, the Courts seldom collect these additional fines anyway. Instead, because they are not allowed to drive, thousands of Kansans have lost their jobs, ended up on welfare or become homeless. They "owe" \$20,000 or more with no way possible to ever pay this outlandish amount of money—especially while sitting in jail. It is the rest of us taxpayers who pay the costs to support them.

No business or individual has any legal authority to hold a person hostage or impound their vehicle to collect a debt. Yet that is exactly what we are allowing courts to do to try and "**squeeze blood out of a turnip**". And to make matters worse, **there is absolutely NO CORRELATION between issuing more traffic citations and reducing vehicle accidents!!** **So STOP THE STOPS!!**

Current laws **HAVE NOT AND WILL NEVER WORK!!** Instead, **if the Legislature allows these 200,000 drivers with a moving violation to pay their original +/- \$200 fine and court costs, the Kansas judicial system will collect \$48 MILLION and clear these cases off of their dockets.**

Passing HB2629 is a step in the right direction. It will be a more humane and realistic way to make sure that over 200,000 of our fellow Kansans can live their life with dignity while earning money to pay their original traffic fines. Plus our law enforcement officers will not be faced with having to take these drivers to jail and impound their vehicle just because they did not have enough money to pay their original traffic fine and court costs on time.

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