

February 7, 2023

To: Kansas House Transportation Committee

From: Joe Grisolano, Crawford County Treasurer

Subject: HB 2148

Chairman Francis and Committee members:

I am here today to speak in support HB 2148 on behalf of the Kansas County Treasurers Association. The framework of this legislation originated from a small group of County Treasurers, the Department of Revenue, and legislators from the Transportation Committees of both the House and Senate. This group met a few years ago to develop an understanding of County Motor Vehicle operations and deal with stagnant revenues and rising costs of performing Motor Vehicle work for Kansans. The group determined the need to simplify the complex fee structure and make it more transparent for Kansans.

Under current law, the fee structure is complicated, hard to explain, and not transparent. HB 2148 removes all hidden fees from the statutes and replaces them with a \$10.00 flat fee the county will retain to support Motor Vehicle services. Additionally, the bill will eliminate the \$4.00 DMV Modernization fee that has been collected for the Kansas Department of Transportation since 2013. This legislation also eliminates all satellite office and facility fees some counties charge so there would be no fee differences from county to county. All fees would be the same statewide and every customer would see the amount the county keeps on their receipt.

County Treasurers work as agents of the state to provide vehicle title and registration services for all Kansans, which is a valuable service. The fees the county retains for these services should cover all costs for providing the services. Due to stagnant revenues and rising costs, the fees retained no longer cover all costs. Currently, virtually every county receives county tax levy support to cover some Motor Vehicle expenses. If HB 2148 becomes law, it would greatly decrease or totally eliminate this property tax support.

County Treasurers overwhelmingly support this flat, simplified, and transparent fee concept. In conclusion, I ask for you to support HB 2418. This flat fee bill is easy to explain, contains no hidden fees, and would provide simple, transparent revenue to support county Motor Vehicle operations. Thank you for your consideration and allowing me to speak today in support of HB 2148. I would be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.