

Dear Esteemed Members of the Kansas House Committee on Transportation,

I am writing to fervently advocate for the passage of HB 2680, a pivotal legislative measure designed to mitigate the perilous risks associated with leaving children unattended in motor vehicles. By enacting this bill, we have an opportunity to safeguard the lives and well-being of our state's youngest citizens.

Over the past two decades, Kansas has witnessed a distressing toll, with at least 15 tragic fatalities attributable to children being alone in hot cars. Additionally, numerous other incidents have resulted in serious injuries and hospitalizations, highlighting the urgent need for proactive measures to address this pressing public safety concern.

HB 2680 proposes a vital provision: it prohibits the unattended confinement of children aged 8 or younger in vehicles without the supervision of an individual aged 12 or older. Furthermore, the bill mandates a \$100 penalty for violations of this statute. By implementing such measures, HB 2680 underscores a judicious approach aimed at both raising awareness and serving as a deterrent against the perilous practice of leaving children alone in vehicles.

The risks associated with this practice are multifaceted, encompassing threats such as heatstroke, power window and seat belt strangulation, carbon monoxide poisoning, fires, knocking cars into gear, cars stolen with children alone inside, and other grave hazards. With 21 states already having enacted similar legislation, the momentum for decisive action is clear and compelling.

For comprehensive information regarding existing laws and precedents in this domain, I invite you to explore the invaluable resources provided by the Kids and Cars Safety organization at the following link: <https://www.kidsandcars.org/laws/unattended-children-in-vehicle>.

It is our firm conviction that the enactment of HB 2680 will serve as a pivotal stride towards protecting the lives and well-being of our cherished youth in Kansas. Thus, I implore you to lend your invaluable support to this crucial legislative endeavor.

In closing, we extend our utmost appreciation for your unwavering dedication to advancing the safety and welfare of all children within our state.

Sincerely,

Kids and Car Safety  
Safe Kids Kansas  
AAA Kansas  
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Kansas Action for Children  
Geary County Health Department  
National Consumers League

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