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Written Testimony on House Bill 2040
House Committee on Transportation

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Kansas Highway Patrol

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The Kansas Highway Patrol appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 2040. This bill allows the school board to equip school buses, with a video recording device, to monitor vehicles that fail to stop when the flashing red lights and stop sign have been activated. In addition, the bill allows for a law enforcement officer to deliver the traffic citation via mail to the last known address of the violator.

One of the Kansas Highway Patrol's Mission and Goals is, "To improve the quality of our service and enforcement activities by developing programs and incorporating technologies that enhance public safety". HB 2040 will help to further enhance our mission, by strengthening our partnership with the education community, and by cultivating a collaborative effort aimed at reducing the deaths and injuries to children entering and exiting school buses.

According to the National Association of State Director of Pupil Transportation Services, there are over 16 million instances a year in which a school bus is illegally passed. Each time a school bus is illegally passed another child is put at risk of being struck by a vehicle. The implementation of cameras on school buses will assist in detecting and deterring the passing of stopped school buses, by extending the enforcement of the statute.

In closing, the Kansas Highway Patrol supports HB 2040 because of the potential to save the lives of Kansas' children. The Kansas Highway Patrol encourages you to vote in support of this bill.

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