

March 15, 2017

Re: Testimony on Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation Bill 140

Honorable Caryn Tyson and Committee Members,

As a constituent of Kansas Senate District 29 and Kansas Representative District 89, I am respectfully requesting your support of SB 140. The Kansas DUI Impact Center, the only agency of its kind in our state, provides invaluable service to hundreds of Kansans victimized by impaired drivers annually. Sadly, my family and I were counted in that number. Providing the agency with a State Tax Exemption would exponentially increase its ability to serve Kansans devastated by vehicular crime committed under the influence of drugs and alcohol. On average, a drunk driver will drive 80 times under the influence before their first arrest. The Kansas DUI Impact Center focuses on education prevention. Statistics show that kids and teens who get involved with alcohol at a young age are 7 times more likely to be involved in an alcohol-related crash in their lives. With additional resources, more school-aged children will receive the message, hopefully, before they take that first drink.

It is estimated that in 2016, the agency paid approximately \$1,000-1,200 in retail sales tax on goods and supplies purchased for use in service to victims of impaired driving crashes. Allowing the Kansas DUI Impact Center to use their tax dollars as a resource to better serve our community, results in an investment in Kansas that far exceeds its monetary value. I can attest to that first hand.

I know the value of the services provided by the Kansas DUI Impact Center because I was personally affected when an impaired driver killed my son Adrian O. Crosby and my cousin Dominique N.T. Green. The agency provided services to me and my family, and I know that I would not have survived the tragedy without the agency's assistance. The staff went to court with us and walked us through the process. They answered telephone calls, any time I called them (day or night), visited with us in our home, fed us, and held support group activities to heal our broken hearts.

I currently serve as a volunteer speaker at the DUI Victim Impact panel to share my story with offenders in order to reduce DUI recidivism. Research proves that effective measures to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from impaired driving include community-based approaches to alcohol education and prevention of impaired driving like the programs offered by the Kansas DUI Impact Center. I am proud of the work that I do when I speak to offenders as a group or one on one. I know that I make a difference, and I'm dedicated to sharing my story and giving my time.

Impaired driving crime affects our entire community. Every 51 minutes in America, someone is killed in a drink driving crash. That equates to 27 people every day. Your support of the Kansas DUI Impact Center's request for State Sales Tax Exemption will provide increased resources for the victims of DUI Crime throughout Kansas.

Warmest regards,

Avis Crosby,
Mother of Adrian O. Crosby
Cousin to Dominique N.T. Green