



RACIAL PROFILING ADVISORY BOARD OF WICHITA



TO SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR MIKE PETERSEN & Members:

RE: Support of Senate Bill 5- Restricted Driving Privileges

Committee members, on behalf of the Racial Profiling Advisory Board of Wichita, we thank you for taking the time to address this issue that is affecting thousands of Kansans, and their quality of life; **suspended and or revoked driving privileges.**

My name is Sheila Officer. I am the chair of the RPAB. As part of the statutory requirement of KSA 22-4606-4611, as well as our mission and goals, we provide educational, empowering workshops on issues that have a grave impact on our community.

On September 17, 2016, with the help of Ms. Jessica Ross and some of her staff from the Kansas Department of Revenue, we presented a Restricted Driver's License Workshop in Wichita. **On that day, we had over 275 participants seeking relief by applying for a "restricted" license, yet without this SB5 amendment, only 20 could qualify.** On that day, we also learned that over 200,000 drivers in Kansas are under "**extreme hardship**", from having their license suspended, and that the hardship **extends and impacts** not only the driver, but their children, their families, and their career.

I offer this written testimony in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 5. I ask that you support and pass this Bill which will help thousands of families obtain relief from the burden of not being able to provide for their families. It is a burden because they cannot get to work. It is also a burden, because they cannot drive their children to an appropriate daycare provider, or seek employment outside the boundaries of local transit; which by the way, does not provide the hours of service needed for second or third shifters, nor does it provide adequate transporting service in most areas of Kansas. It is also a burden for drivers who are care-givers to family members, but are unable to transport them to address medical needs.

The consequences of a suspended or revoked license has such an extreme impact on **families**, that the **penalty is not proportionate to the offense. To suspend or revoke a license due to unpaid traffic fines by people who are already burdened and indigent is extreme, inhuman, unjust and an indictment against the poor.** I ask that you help relieve Kansas families from this burden. **Please support and pass Senate Bill 5!** Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Sheila Officer- Chair
Racial Profiling Citizens Advisory Board
2755 E 19th Street North, Suite 6
Wichita, KS 67214
316-371-0013