

State of Kansas House of Representatives

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Gail A. Finney
Representative, 84th District

February 9, 2017

Senate Transportation Committee**Re: Testimony SB74 – Joey’s Law / Proponent**

Thank you Chairman Petersen and Committee for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 74 – “Joey’s Law.” On August 18, 2016 Joey Weber was killed after he panicked and tried to flee from a law enforcement officer (LEO) while driving his dad’s car. This bill is a collaboration among many concerned citizens and organizations that want to make sure a tragedy such as this never happens again.

Joey’s Law, as currently written, provides three different types of alert notifications to law enforcement regarding citizens that have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It is strictly a voluntary registration that can provide alerts on the vehicle registration, driver’s license and on the state identification. On the vehicle registration, the alert would be through the law enforcement KCGIS system whereas the LEO would be able to know that someone has ASD before the car is pulled over. The driver’s license alert would be an embedded alert that would notify once someone is pulled over. The state identification alert would be reserved for someone is too young or too old for a driver’s license, because there are times when someone may not be driving or maybe they are in or at a convenience store when they are approached by law enforcement.

Many of us believe that if this bill would have been in place at the time of Joey’s death, there would have been a much lesser opportunity for something as tragic as this to have happened. This bill may not be the absolute be all too every situation that may occur to someone, but it is a great start. Please vote to approve SB 74 so that no other citizen should have to experience a tragedy such as Joey, or the pain and suffering that the Weber family has had to endure with the loss of their beloved son.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gail Finney".

Representative Gail Finney

Committees: Insurance, Financial Institutions & Pensions, Transportation & Public Safety Budgets