

Joy Barnes
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Beta Kappa Omega Chapter
P.O. Box 8155
Wichita, Kansas 67208

Chairman Rep. Richard Proehl
Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Please allow this letter to serve as my expressive request and support of a Kansas State license plate for the illustrious members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. Our organization recently celebrated 111 years of service and is internationally renowned. Founded in 1908 to cultivate high and ethical standards, to promote unity and friendship among college women, to study and help alleviate problems concerning girls and women in order to improve their social stature, to maintain a progressive interest in college life, and to be of Service to All Mankind.

In the words of our international president, “with excellence as our guide and sustainable service as our focus, our international program agenda provides opportunities for our 300,000 members, operating in more than 1,000 chapters, to meet the needs of the communities we serve. The sorority’s past initiatives have changed the social and economic landscape of our nation, and we will continue to make a difference worldwide for decades to come.”

With that said, one doesn’t have to look very far to find a Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. participating and serving our community. We provide numerous service hours to programs that raise community awareness on critical health issues impacting women. One of our primary focuses is breast cancer awareness and prevention, as well as, heart health, nutrition and wellness, and care for caregivers. In addition, you will find members of Alpha Kappa Alpha involved in local community programs, ranging from Habitat for Humanity projects and other health initiative programs; to providing grant scholarships for graduating high school students. We are informed, working citizens that stay in communication with our local and state representatives. So much so, that we have a specific day annually (AKA day at the Capitol), in which we visit Topeka to share our concerns and support the legislative process.

In Kansas, there are five alumni chapters and four undergraduate chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Currently, at least seven other states have personalized, Alpha Kappa Alpha distinctive license plates. They include Georgia, New York, Oklahoma, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Virginia. Statewide there are approximately 1000 members of this organization who are eager to support and purchase this distinctive pink and green license plate, annually; which will provide the means for the initial 20K start up cost and the required 500 commitments.

The Kansas chapters will use this opportunity as a means to support our Educational Advancement Foundation® (EAF), which accomplishes its mission by providing academic scholarships and organizing and conducting volunteer programs and community service projects. By supporting such a wide variety of lifelong learning projects and pursuits, we enable people to make a difference in their lives and the lives of others.

It is my hope that Kansas will join in with these other states and allow members of this beloved organization to purchase this plate and show our strong pride in this historical organization, support of its programs and our pride as citizens of the great state of Kansas.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Joy Barnes, President
Beta Kappa Omega Chapter
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®