

Memo

To: House Transportation Committee
From: Chardae Caine, Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
Date: February 12, 2019
Re: Testimony in support of House Bill 2095

I want to thank Chairman Proehl and the Committee members for allowing me to provide testimony in support of HB 2095.

I became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated seven years ago at Auburn University. During my time at Auburn, I served as the President and Financial Secretary of my chapter and participated in our Day at the Capitol events at the Alabama Statehouse. After receiving my graduate degree, I decided to move to Topeka and began visiting with the local graduate chapter. Now nearly two years later, being a member of the chapter has allowed me to immerse myself into the community and get to know other women who serve not only the city of Topeka, but the State of Kansas. Currently, I serve as the Secretary and the Connection and Social Action Committee Chair.

Nearly 20 states across the nation have established an AKA license plate and we would like to join the ranks. I represent the Kansas members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated as we request to have this distinctive tag to show pride in our organization, support of its programs, and our pride as citizens of the great state of Kansas.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is the first sorority established by African-American college women. Founded on January 15, 1908 on the campus of Howard University in Washington D.C., the sorority has expanded to more than 300,000 members with over 1,000 chapters across the world. There are nine chapters serving across the State of Kansas, four undergraduate and five graduate.

Our mission: Being of Service to All Mankind has led to programs of excellency that assist the communities we serve in reaching success and meeting the needs of all residents.

Our current programs include:

- HBCU for Life- Providing funding to historically black colleges and universities
- Women's Healthcare and Wellness- the awareness and prevention of breast cancer and heart health
- Building Your Economic Legacy- personal financial planning and credit repair and monitoring

- The Arts!- Harlem Renaissance, Black Arts Movement
- Global Impact- Partnership with Soles for Souls and Lions International

The revenue generated from the sale of these personalized license plates will be used to support our programs of service.

The application process for purchase of these tags will be governed by the rules currently in place by the state for customized license plates. An application will be submitted to the Kansas Alpha Kappa Alpha Tag Application Office where validation of the applicant's membership is required to qualify for purchasing the tag.

Alpha Iota Omega, the Topeka Alumnae Chapter, was chartered October 1, 1928. The service and passion for the future of Kansas can be seen in the works and dedication of those members who strived for the success of Topeka. Mamie Williams was one of the charter members and Williams Magnet School was named after her, The Holland Student Center was named after Flossie Holland and her husband. Meadow Elementary was named after Kay E. Meadows and her husband. Additionally, Ross Elementary school was named after Barbara Ross, Elizabeth Ross served on the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library Board, and Dr. Aletha Cushinberry served as Pastor of a local Apostolic Church. Chapters across the state of Kansas have all contributed to the accomplishments of our State.

As an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and on behalf of my sisters, we respectfully request the Committee pass HB 2095 to the full House for consideration.