

Chairman Proehl and Members of the House Transportation Committee:

My name is Michael Kelley and I'm the policy manager for BikeWalkKC.

BikeWalkKC supports House Bill No. 2458, which seeks to strengthen legislation regarding negligent driving. In order for Kansas to become a better state for our most vulnerable road users, **we need legislation like this to deter motorists from behavior that puts everyone at risk.**

BikeWalkKC supports this measure for the following reasons:

- **First, this will deter motorists from driving while distracted.** The bill explicitly prohibits operating a vehicle "...inattentively in such a manner as to endanger, or be likely to endanger, any person or property." The addition of the \$45 fine will work to persuade drivers to put their lives, instead of their phones, into their own hands.
- **Second, we must work to reverse negative trends for vulnerable road users across the state.** The National Complete Streets Coalition, in ranking metropolitan areas on how unsafe they are for pedestrians, identified both the Kansas City metro and Wichita as areas significantly more dangerous than the national average. Legislative measures such as HB 2458 will help us begin to lower numbers like these.
- **Finally, if enacted, this bill will ultimately benefit all modes of transportation.** The legislation will not only protect cyclists and pedestrians, but also transit users, other motorists, those operating emergency vehicles, and those with limited mobility or disability issues. In passing this legislation, we can ensure that no matter how you choose to move through the Sunflower State, you are doing so in a way that will be safer.

Negligent driving has unfortunately become a more common occurrence, leading to innumerable near-collisions and avoidable mayhem. **However, House Bill No. 2458 gives us a real opportunity to prevent that dangerous behavior.** In passing this legislation, we clearly state the punishment for this reckless behavior, begin the work to reverse negative trends, and continue the necessary work to make our roads safe for all.

Please vote **"YES"** on HB 2458.