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***Honorable Chair Senator Petersen
Ranking Minority Member Honorable Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau
Chairman Peterson, and Honorable Members of this Committee,
RE: Written Support for SB 275***

I am grateful for this committees' work on the issue of driving privileges in the State of Kansas. My name is David H. Wilkinson owner of Wilkinson Consulting Group and Senior Associate with Justice Concepts Inc. My awareness of how driving privileges affect Kansans is generated from various perspectives. Firstly let me frame my comments by the notion that today's economy, demands on personal time and overall complexity of life require one to have mobility. Lack of mobility can be a barrier to economic success affecting all aspects of our lives. I applaud this committee's work on removing barriers to Kansans' ability to operate motor vehicles. My work for law firms as a paralegal deeply informs my insight. Over time I literally saw hundreds of clients who had, for various reasons suspended or revoked licenses. Often and generally at the risk of going to jail they continued to drive. Sadly this choice puts at risk their freedom.

However the need to drive to go to work, school and care for their families prevailed over the risk of going to jail. In fact I know citizens of Kansas who have driven for decades without a driver's license and today we believe over 100,000 Kansas citizens are not in compliance. And have essentially given up on the idea of driving legitimately. These people are not criminals but everyday Kansans who are unable rectify their driving status usually due to economic reasons. And this one act leads to numerous others ways they are marginalized and live outside of the norms we expect.

We know that not allowing alternative actions people are marginalized and begin down a road that further alienates them from full participation in the fabric of society. And while we do not condone this the fact is that people will do what they must do to survive. Today your actions will have long-term impacts and many positive multiplier effects for Kansas families. Let's work together to insure that all Kansans regardless of economic status have the opportunity to fully participate in the life of their communities. And today by creating a pathway to restoring driving privileges you are doing just that. Removing barriers for those with revoked or suspended driving privileges has the potential to bring our estranged citizens back into the mainstream of our culture. I appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration of this important amendment to existing Kansas law.

***Very Truly Yours,
David H. Wilkinson, M.A., M.S.
Wilkinson Consulting Group***

Written Testimony in Support of SB 275