



Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 146
Senate Committee on Transportation

Prepared by
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The Kansas Highway Patrol appreciates this opportunity to provide written testimony on changes set forth in Senate Bill 146. This bill would codify what is, in part, currently being done via the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Department of Revenue. The bill would permanently transfer the duties related to Ignition Interlock Vendor Compliance to the Kansas Highway Patrol and provide the monies currently collected and distributed to the Kansas Department of Revenue to the Kansas Highway Patrol. These monies would be used exclusively to regulate Ignition Interlock Vendors in the State of Kansas. Currently, the duties of Ignition Interlock Vendor Compliance are being completed by Kansas Highway Patrol pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding.

A principal function of the Kansas Highway Patrol is to enforce traffic and other laws of this state relating to highways, vehicles, and drivers of vehicles. Consistent with this function is the agency's Mission and Goals which state in part, "The Patrol will deter motorists from driving impaired and will arrest impaired drivers through proven DUI countermeasures, such as selective enforcement efforts and sobriety check lanes." It is the Patrol's belief the Ignition Interlock requirement for offenders convicted of driving under the influence is a valuable tool in preventing impaired drivers from operating vehicles on Kansas roadways. As our agency's mission is prevention of impaired driving and enforcement of Kansas Statutes, it seems only natural the Ignition Interlock Program would reside within our agency.

The Kansas Department of Revenue has jurisdiction, and will continue to be the authority, over which drivers are mandated to acquire Ignition Interlock Devices from a private vendor. Transferring the regulation of vendors to a second independent agency like the Patrol ensures there is no appearance or question of favoritism towards vendors by the agency mandating the Ignition Interlock Requirement. Customers will have confidence the installation, calibration, and removal of these devices is regulated by an agency with no vested interest in the process other than the prevention of impaired driving and fairness to the customer.

The Patrol has also undertaken, with funding and support provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation, a program dedicated to Ignition Interlock Customer Compliance. Currently, two troopers are assigned to this program and are tasked with contacting customers who are actively circumventing their Ignition Interlock Devices. The Patrol's goal with this program is to change customer behavior and attempt to limit recidivism. Transfer of the Vendor Program to the Patrol will allow a seamless and

efficient method for vendors in the state to report all issues with customers to the same agency they report for vendor compliance. Information will be shared by all stakeholders in a more efficient and timely manner which will make Kansas roadways safer.

In closing, the Kansas Highway Patrol supports Senate Bill 146 because it will provide the citizens of Kansas with an efficient program designed to prevent tragedy while maintaining fairness to the customers who are mandated to utilize an Ignition Interlock Device. The Patrol believes the transfer of the authority currently assigned to the Kansas Department of Revenue will make our roadways safer and streamline regulatory efforts. We sincerely thank members of the Committee for their consideration of our testimony and passage of this bill.

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