

Written Testimony on House Bill 2008  
House Committee on Transportation

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The Kansas Highway Patrol appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 2008. This bill requires that every school bus purchased on and after the effective date of this act, shall be equipped with factory-installed lap-shoulder seatbelts.

The Kansas Highway Patrol's Mission and Goals, state in part that the "Patrol will promote the use of child restraints and safety belts through aggressive enforcement and educational programs." HB 2008 will help to further enhance our mission, by strengthening our partnership with the education community, and by cultivating a collaborative effort aimed at reducing the deaths and injuries to school bus occupants involved in motor vehicle crashes.

A school bus has to meet more Federal safety standards than any other type of motor vehicle. To ensure these standards are upheld, the Kansas Highway Patrol annually inspects over 11,000 school buses prior to the beginning of each school year. Because of these standards and inspections, a school bus is the safest mode of transportation for students traveling to and from school. The implementation of seat belts on newly purchased school buses will only enhance the protection of Kansas' students, especially in cases where a rollover or side impact crash could occur.

In closing, the Kansas Highway Patrol supports HB 2008 because of the enhanced potential to save lives. One life needlessly lost is one too many, especially when the opportunity exists to save it. This bill increases that opportunity and we encourage you to vote in support.

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