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SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
Hon. Mike Peterson, Chairman

Testimony in Opposition of SB 181

Thank you, Chairman Peterson, and all of the committee members for allowing me to present testimony in opposition to SB 181. I am Amanda Truan, Clerk of the Court in Ellis County. I am here on behalf of the Kansas Association for District Court Clerks and Court Administrators.

We, as clerks of the court, see the good intention of this bill. Unfortunately, implementing this bill in its current form would create a tremendous amount of new work for clerks of the court, at a time when we are already struggling keep pace as positions remain unfilled throughout the court system. This proposal is not feasible because the statewide case management system that 104 counties across the state of Kansas are currently using is unable to handle the type of payment plan and/or community work service plan that this bill would require, thus leaving the work to be done manually. Further, there is no existing interface between the Division of Vehicles and the district courts that would provide information about when a person applies for restricted driving privileges. In Fiscal Year 2016, 161,088 traffic cases were filed in the state of Kansas. As you can imagine with that number of traffic cases, passage of this bill would result in a significant burden on court staff. When staff members have to spend a substantial amount of time manually processing certain classes of cases, it slows case processing in many others areas as well.

Allowing community work service or classes to be done in lieu of fines and waiving the reinstatement fee would also result in a decrease in funds to the State General Fund. So, the bill will increase expenditures by requiring more staff hours to process these cases while reducing revenue to the State General Fund.

On behalf of all district court employees that handle traffic cases on a daily basis, we would ask that you not pass this bill out of committee.

I am happy to answer questions you may have.