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Rev. Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan, Board Chair**

**Written Testimony by Rabbi Moti Rieber, Executive Director
in Support of HB 2434, Driver’s License Suspension for Non-Payment of Fines
House Corrections Committee, Rep. Fred Patton, chair**

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Carmichael, members of the committee –

Kansas Interfaith Action is a statewide, multi-faith issue advocacy organization that educates, engages and advocates on behalf of people of faith and the public regarding critical racial and economic justice issues. Our goal is to bring a moral voice to public policy in Kansas. We represent 2,000 people of faith and conscience across the state (mostly Mainline Protestant, moderate Catholic, Jewish, Muslim and Unitarian Universalist), and are the state public policy office of the Central States Synod of the ELCA Lutheran Church.

As communities of faith, our primary focus is on the intrinsic worth of the individual human being. Our purpose is to make sure that our friends and neighbors have what they need to survive and thrive. For better or worse, one of the things people need in Kansas is a driver’s license. Access to public transportation is limited, and to do almost anything – work, shop, get the kids back and forth to school or to appointments – a driver’s license is virtually mandatory.

Taking away driving privileges disadvantages people – particularly poor people - by making it impossible for them to do these everyday activities. It forces them to break the law in order to function, leaving them more vulnerable to further law enforcement. It prohibits them from getting insurance, which puts the rest of us at risk.

The only time that license suspensions should be used as punishment is for driving related infractions. Using this tool as means to collect child support or court costs only means that the person in question will be either unable to fulfill their obligations, or will have to go further outside the law to do so. This is one of the many ways our laws add to the burden of poor people, and we need it to stop.

For the sake of the dignity of our friends and neighbors—our fellow Kansans—we strongly encourage the committee to recommend HB 2434 to the full House for passage.

Thank you for your attention.