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PROPONENT TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

REGARDING HOUSE BILL 2606
RELATING TO DUI PENALTIES FOR COMMERCIAL DRIVERS' LICENSES

February 4, 2026

I am Catherine Magaña**,** Legislative Liaison for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2606, which provides a minor language clarification to current Driving Under the Influence (DUI) statutes. Passage of this bill is critical to keep the state in compliance with federal regulations regarding DUI offender penalties for CDL users. The bill makes a simple language change in one location of existing state law, allowing the state to continue to suspend CDLs due to the presence of a prior DUI.

If this bill is not passed, KDOT would be at risk of losing a percentage of the federal funding we receive annually from the National Highway Performance Program and Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. Falling out of compliance with the FMCSA's prohibition on masking convictions (49 CFR § 384.226**)** could result in a transfer of about $17 million in the first year of noncompliance out of our federally funded core infrastructure program, further limiting the breadth of highway improvements that the agency could make each year. If the state enters a second year of noncompliance, Kansas could have up to $35 million withheld as well as possible decertification of the state's CDL program. The agency works to be a good steward of the funds that we have by improving and maintaining our transportation and highway infrastructure. A loss of federal funds in the stated amounts would significantly impact our ability to continue delivering projects for all Kansans on a steady basis.

In Kansas, impaired driving fatalities account for about 25 percent of all traffic deaths annually. Positive enhancements to our current DUI laws should provide safer roads for everyone and consistently hold offenders accountable. As such, KDOT is supportive of this bill that would continue to uphold safety for all road users.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2606. I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.