



**House Committee on Judiciary**  
**Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 500**  
**Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony to Senate Bill 500, a bill concerning restricted driving privileges.

Senate Bill 500 would allow individuals with restricted drivers license to continue to drive to work and prevent the suspension of driver's license for failure to pay certain non-moving traffic violations. We worked with law enforcement representatives to reduce the number of crimes that could lead to a driver's license suspension for failure to pay. These are crimes that do not require the operation of a motor vehicle. For instance, under current law if an individual does not pay their violation for littering their license could be suspended.

Ultimately, if you have a suspended driver's license for failure to pay you are prohibited to drive to work. This adds to the already complex workforce problem we are seeing in our state. It is estimated that 84% of suspended driver's licenses in Kansas are due to failure to pay nonmoving traffic violations.

We continue to hear from our members that access to a qualified workforce is one of their top concerns. We appreciate this legislature taking the time to look at ways to remove the heavy hand of government and find alternative solutions to individuals who have minor infractions.

In closing, we believe this bill is an additional tool to help solve our workforce problems in Kansas for small, medium, and large businesses. Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony to Senate Bill 500, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.