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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**REGARDING SENATE BILL 142
RELATING TO THE UNIFORM FINE SCHEDULE FOR TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS**

March 7, 2024

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members:

I am Joel Skelley, the Director of Policy for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I am here today to provide testimony on Senate Bill 142. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and to provide comments.

KDOT supports this bill as it relates to safety on our roadways. If a vehicle is in a crash or disabled on the side of the road, the people in or around this vehicle are vulnerable road users or pedestrians that could be killed or injured if struck by another vehicle. A stationary vehicle on the side of the road is also an object that could be struck by another vehicle and therefore, puts that driver and passengers at a higher risk of death or injury. KDOT strives to improve the safety and quality of life for the traveling public by reducing the number of motor vehicle fatalities, injuries, and crashes.

Kansas crash statistics show that from 2018-2022, 688 empty vehicles were struck while on the side of road. These crashes resulted in 11 fatalities, 19 suspected serious injuries, 198 possible or minor injuries and 513 property damage only crashes. Additionally, 64 crashes occurred with someone in a vehicle while on the side of road during this same time period. These crashes resulted in 2 fatalities, 1 suspected serious injury, 49 possible or minor injuries and 31 property damage only crashes.

This proposed legislation enhances the current move over statutes to now include every passenger vehicle that is stopped or disabled on the side of the road displaying hazard warning signal lamps, road flares or caution signals. This enhancement makes it easier to educate the driving public as now drivers will be required to move over or slow down if there is a vehicle on the side of the road with flashing lights. This bill supports the agency's Drive to Zero mission of reducing death and injury on Kansas roads by providing another tool to protect those people and vehicles either stranded or disabled on the side of the road, making us all safer on Kansas Roads.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 142. The agency respectfully asks the committee support passage of this bill. I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.