



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

Thursday, February 15, 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 neutral testimony to Senate Bill 500, a bill concerning restricted driving privileges.

Senate Bill 500 would allow individuals with restricted driving privileges to drive their children to and from school or their childcare facility. The Kansas Chamber believes the overall intent of Senate Bill 500 is good, however it does not address the workforce issue.

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

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. We would ask for the contents of Senate Bill 440 to be included within Senate Bill 500. It is estimated that 84% of suspended driver's licenses in Kansas are due to failure to pay nonmoving traffic violations.

Senate Bill 440 would prohibit the suspension of a driver's license for failure to pay nonmoving traffic violations. We believe this would be an additional tool to help solve our workforce problems in Kansas for small, medium, and large businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony to Senate Bill 500, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.