

Good Morning Senator Peterson and fellow senators,

My name is Nicole Allensworth, I am a 47 yr old resident from Lawrence, Kansas. I wanted to speak on HB 2499 because I know the damages that can be done by texting and driving or even having your phone in your hands. I was in a severe car wreck in 2015 because I was texting and driving. I ended up over correcting and getting T-boned due to this. This wreck put me in a coma for 2 weeks and a stay in the hospital and rehabilitation for approximately a month. Yes, it was only for a month, but the doctors did not know if I was going to make it. I was in a construction zone, so I could of easily of killed someone, fortunately I did not. I also could have ended the life of the man who hit me, as well as my kids, if they had been in the car with me. Thankfully I did not kill anyone. Distracted driving not only harms the person driving and the people involved in the accident but everyone else too. I ended up with a Traumatic Brain Injury that day, that altered my life in every way possible. I hurt relationships. My sister no longer talks to me anymore and right now my daughter doesn't and hasn't for the past 6 years. I also lost relationships with friends. Everything hurts in some form. Yes, I was 39 when this happened but this shows that not only is Distracted Driving the number one reason teenagers die between ages 12 – 19 (if my research is correct), but a problem for others, as well. Distracted driving has become a pandemic That needs to be

addressed. I am going to keep speaking on the topic and telling my story because I hope it makes a difference and the law becomes equal to a DUI. We need to be hands free. Looking back, I even caused an accident because I had my phone in my hand, and I was distracted. So, I urge you to vote YES to Bill 2499. This is only a step to where we need to be regarding distracted driving, but it is a Huge Step. Thank you for hearing my story.