

STOP DISTRACTIONS.ORG

CHANGING MINDS AND SAVING LIVES

Senate Committee on Transportation

March 7, 2024

Written Proponent: HB2499

Stopdistractions.org supports HB 2499, prohibiting the use of a mobile telephone while operating a vehicle in a school zone or a road construction zone or by individuals under 18 years of age. On behalf of the families who have been impacted by distracted driving crashes, we urge you to vote YES on HB 2499 to save lives, without any more delay.

StopDistractions.org is a grassroots non-profit organization dedicated to eliminating the lifelong devastation that results when a loved one is killed or injured in a distracted driving crash. We are the faces of distracted driving.

This bill is a step in the right direction. This bill is also not creating a new reason for police to pull drivers over, it is modernizing the current law to keep current with the evolution of technologies. To truly be safer, the best law to save lives would be a hands-free bill, for all age drivers, on all roads but this is a step in the right direction.

Why Kansas needs it?

- Distracted driving rates are rising every year.
- Constituents want it.
- 29 states now hands-free laws (Recently passed: Ohio, Michigan, and Missouri)
- Prevent injuries & saves lives – Help make roads safer! (Distracted driving-related crashes are a major burden on emergency medical and trauma systems and result in significant expenditures for treatment and rehabilitation)
- Increased ability to enforce law – change behavior
- Current law for texting is outdated and unenforceable, laws need expanded language.

People don't just "text" anymore.

Hands-free laws give law enforcement and the public a clear interpretation of the law, if the phone is in your hand, then you are in violation. It removes the grey areas or loopholes and makes enforcement effective.

This bill recognizes the purpose of the law is to change drivers' behavior for safety. Distracted driving not only results in crashes, deaths and injuries, but it has a large financial burden on the state. As families who have been impacted, we know the cost of inaction. We urge you to support HB 2499, a critical measure to curb dangerous and deadly distracted driving.