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**Testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee
In Support of SB113
February 5, 2025**

Chairman Petersen and Committee Members:

Our associations support SB113 addressing a very serious traffic safety issue—gross speeding violations. This problem has become very prevalent with an alarming number of violators at these extremely high speeds, as shown by the data in the testimony from the Kansas Highway Patrol. Enhancing the penalties for these extreme speeding violations should help reduce these incidents. This bill proposes making these violations an act of reckless driving.

We believe it would be hard to argue that driving a vehicle at such speeds is not a violation consistent with reckless driving: “Operates a vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.” No one exceeds the speed limits to that degree due to the lack of attention, it is a choice they make to drive at those speeds.

Reckless excessive speeding doesn’t just occur on interstate highways. They are happening on our city streets and county roads as well. To address that, the bill includes operation at speeds of 35 mph or more above any posted speed limit. These speeds cannot be justified even if speeding up to pass a slower vehicle.

Here are some examples from Wichita:

“A man spotted driving at a speed that exceeded 100 mph suffered critical injuries in a single-vehicle crash reported late Tuesday night at a busy intersection in east Wichita. The crash happened about 11:15 p.m. at Kellogg and Rock Road. Wichita police said the man was driving south on Rock Road and crashed at Kellogg. Police indicated speed played a factor, reporting that the man’s car was clocked traveling at 106 mph before the crash.”

KWCH-Ch 12 News- Feb, 7, 2024¹

“Around 2 a.m., police said dispatch received several calls reporting a motorcycle crash in the westbound lanes of Kellogg near Woodlawn. According to witnesses, the

¹ <https://www.kwch.com/2024/02/07/man-critically-injured-high-speed-crash-kellogg-rock-road/>

motorcycle was traveling westbound at a high rate of speed when it rear-ended a red truck in the center lane. A witness told KAKE News that the driver of the truck abruptly moved into the cyclist's lane, leaving them little time to react. The rider was ejected from the motorcycle, and EMS pronounced the rider deceased at the scene about a half hour later.”

KAKE News-September 28, 2024²

“Three people are injured following a high-speed crash in Wichita. Authorities say a Chevy Camaro was clocked at 140-miles-per-hour just minutes before it crashed into a Hyundai and a pickup late Monday night on Kellogg near Washington. The driver of the Camaro and two people in the Hyundai were injured.”
KSAL-FM News December 11, 2024³

Clearly accidents are more likely to occur at these high speeds, and when they do the damage and injuries will be much higher.

We encourage you to move this bill forward favorably.

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² https://www.kake.com/home/one-dead-in-hit-and-run-motorcycle-crash-in-east-wichita/article_5e697a10-7dad-11ef-8ddf-0be93172ce24.html

³ <https://www.ksal.com/three-injured-after-high-speed-crash/>