

February 11, 2025

To: Kansas Senate Transportation Committee

From: Joe Grisolano, Crawford County Treasurer

Subject: SB 119

Chairman Petersen and Committee members:

I am providing written testimony to support SB 119 on behalf of the Kansas County Treasurers Association. Our group has worked to develop a bill that provides some revenue increase to support County Motor Vehicle Title and Registration operations, without any fee increase to the public.

This bill simply reallocates a portion of the fees charged for each vehicle registration and title. Currently, out of the \$30.00 or \$40.00 vehicle registration, the Kansas Department of Revenue receives all but \$.75, which is retained by the county. SB 119 increases the retained county amount to \$5.75. For each \$10.00 title application fee, the county sends all but \$2.00 to the state. \$6.50 of the remaining \$8.00, is assigned to two special state funds. SB 119 increases the amount retained by the county by the additional \$1.50 that is not covered in the current Statutes.

Kansas County Treasurers work as agents of the state to provide vehicle title and registration services for all Kansans. The fees collected and retained by each county should cover all costs for providing this valuable service. Due to stagnant revenues and rising costs, the fees retained no longer cover the costs of these services. Currently, every Kansas county must use ad-valorem tax dollars to subsidize county motor vehicle services. If SB 119 becomes law, it will greatly decrease or totally eliminate this ad-valorem tax support for Motor Vehicle expenses, SB 119 will provide property tax relief in every Kansas County.

The current fee structure has been in place since 2007, and the allocations that are addressed in SB 119 haven't changed for at least 45 years.

The costs of providing Title and Registration services have increased greatly over the years for all Kansas Counties, especially since the implementation of the DMVS computer system in 2012, which shifted many Title and Registration duties from the Department of Revenue, to the County Treasurer.

In conclusion, I'm asking for you to support SB 119. This legislation provides much needed revenue for county Motor Vehicle operations, while providing property tax relief, without adding additional fees to the public. Thank you for your consideration of SB 119.