



SEDGWICK COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE Brandi Baily, County Treasurer

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To: Senate Committee on Transportation

Sen. Mike Petersen, Chair; Sen. Rick Kloos, Vice Chair;

Sen Ethan Corson, Ranking Minority Member; Sen. Mike

Argabright; Sen. Elaine Bowers; Sen. Joseph Claeys; Sen. Brenda

Dietrich; Sen. Jeff Klemp; Sen. Patrick Schmidt; Sen. Caryn Tyson;

Sen. Kellie Warren

From: Brandi Baily, Sedgwick County Treasurer

Date: February 11, 2025

Re: Senate Bill No. 119

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee on Transportation

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill No. 119, which proposes essential changes to Kansas Statute 8-145. This bill would reallocate an additional \$5 per registration and \$1.50 per title to counties, raising the total to \$5.75 per registration and \$3.50 per title. These changes are crucial for generating the revenue necessary to support county motor vehicle offices, without increasing costs for our taxpayers.

Currently, Sedgwick County taxpayers are bearing the financial burden, through property taxes, for costs not covered by the existing fee structure. In 2023, the deficit in Sedgwick County was \$374,000, and in 2024, it grew to \$655,000. Projections for 2025 estimate the deficit will reach \$960,000, with this gap continuing to widen year over year.

Sedgwick County operates two motor vehicle offices in Wichita, with 79 employees managing over 636,000 transactions annually—an average of 53,000 transactions per month. Of these, 415,000 are registration renewals and 109,000 are title transactions. As costs for equipment, employee wages, and benefits continue to rise, the allocation of funds from the state has remained unchanged. Meanwhile, both the volume of work and the responsibilities shifted to counties have significantly increased.

Additional duties, such as scanning title documents, coordinating with lenders and dealerships, and reviewing title work, now fall to county treasurers. These tasks require both personnel and specialized equipment, further straining our county's resources. Passage of Senate Bill No. 119 will help relieve taxpayers of these added expenses and ensure the continued efficiency of motor vehicle services.

I respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill No. 119, as it represents a crucial step in ensuring the financial sustainability of Sedgwick County's motor vehicle operations. Without this reallocation, our county taxpayers will continue to bear significant financial burdens. Thank you for considering this important legislation, which will directly benefit taxpayers and help maintain the quality of services provided by our office.

Sincerely,

Brandi Baily
Sedgwick County Treasurer