



KANSAS FFA ASSOCIATION

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March 6, 2025

Senate Committee on Transportation
Informational Hearing
Senator Mike Peterson, Chair

Informational testimony in support of Kansas FFA Distinctive License Plate (HB2201)

Chairman Peterson and esteemed members of the Transportation committee:

My name is Hayley Hines, I have been a Kansas FFA member for 5 years, and I am currently serving as the 2024-2025 Kansas FFA State Vice President. I stand in front of you today in support of House Bill 2201, which offers the installation of a FFA license plate. This bill would not only allow additional funds for the association, but it will create representation across the state for an organization that helps build the future leaders of tomorrow's agriculturalists.

My family's journey in the blue jacket started back in the 1950's. My great grandparents were members of the Olathe chapter, including my Granny. My Grannys tie to FFA is the most inspiring seeing as women were not allowed to officially join the National FFA Organization until 1969. In the year 1954, my granny was named the chapter sweetheart and was given a white heart necklace with a gold ffa emblem in the center. She saw the value this organization holds and has kept the necklace all these years. At the conclusion of my freshman year chapter banquet I was told this impactful story as I was gifted the chapter sweetheart necklace. When receiving the necklace, I did not see the value right away. After that night, I began to create my own journey in the blue and gold jacket. While I have lived on a farm my whole life, driving a tractor and working cattle was never something I was passionate about doing, but I saw the value in agriculture. So, I decided to become an advocate for the industry, it is my way of supporting the individuals who allow us to live our daily lives. As I have continued to zip up my blue jacket, I have realized the importance of my grannys sweetheart necklace. It does not just mark the honor of being chapter sweetheart, it marks the determination, passion, leadership, and grit this organization empowers students of all kinds to have. It marks the beginning of tomorrow's leaders.

The FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth** and **career success** through agricultural education.



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The 2022 census of Agriculture found that less than 9% of agriculture producers in America are under the age of 35. Kansas FFA equips members with the skills needed to continue feeding an ever growing population through agriculture education. It allows members to find their passions, step outside of their comfort zone, and make lasting impacts on their communities.

While there are an abundance of license plates on the road, the FFA license plate is a new opportunity to provide education, opportunities, and lifetime memories to students across the state of Kansas.

I am in continued support of allowing FFA to have a specialty plate, and I urge each of you to make an impact in the agriculture industry by passing House Bill 2201. Mr. Chair, I stand for questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hayley Hines
Kansas FFA State Vice President

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