

Testimony Regarding Senate Bill 466

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Every year thousands of people die on our highways as a result of motor vehicle accidents. Tragically, most of these are preventable. One need only read the newspapers or watch the evening news to see that occasionally these deaths occur because someone was driving who has neither the mental nor physical capacity to safely do so.

Oftentimes physicians are the first to notice when an individual lacks the mental or physical capacity to safely drive an automobile. K.S.A. 8-255c allows physicians or optometrists to provide this information to the medical advisory board of the Division of Motor Vehicles. Unfortunately, this statute in its current form does not address issues of privacy and/or privilege that doctors oftentimes face when they decide whether or not to report a patient. This bill updates the statute and specifically allows a physician to report these concerns without violating their physician patient privilege. It also insures confidentiality of those reports.

I am told that this amendment to the statute will allow for greater reporting and hopefully savings of lives in the future.