

Good afternoon!

My name is Rick Giefer. I am the District Transportation Director for USD 503 – Parsons, Kansas.

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for this opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 2154, authorizing the KS Department of Education to contract with a private vendor to install and operate school bus cameras.

Parsons is located in Labette County in Southeast Kansas. USD 503 transports approximately 270 students daily from designated bus stops within the city limits of Parsons.

Our bus drivers report on average, 20 bus stop violations per week. In reality, this is 20 possibilities that a child can be struck by a vehicle and be severely injured or worse, even when they are crossing the street in front of a bus that has the stop arm activated.

At our 2nd & 3rd grade attendance center, our buses load and unload on a one-way street. The stop arm violations at this location have become so frequent that the Parsons Police Department recommended that I have our drivers park the buses in the street. This was so vehicles could not go around them while they were loading and unloading students. In one instance, one of our bus drivers and the monitor on the same bus at this location, reported to me that a car drove up over the curb, through the grass, and over the curb again just to get around the bus, while getting ready to load students.

I am testifying today, to ask you to support House Bill 2154, to hold drivers of vehicles accountable when they choose to run the stop arm on school buses. We need to reduce the possibilities of Kansas students being injured when they ride on the school buses.

Thank you!