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To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Michael A. Padilla, Mayor of the City of Topeka

Date: March 21, 2023

Re: HB 2216 Proponent Testimony—Written Only

I would like to thank Chairwoman Warren and the Committee for allowing me to submit testimony as Mayor of the City of Topeka in support of HB 2216.

Every year Topeka's Governing Body crafts a legislative agenda focused on issues that affect our local citizens and the list is driven by needs seen by our elected officials, citizens, and staff. This was an issue we included in this year's agenda.

I strive as Mayor to support issues that provide a more equitable world to our citizens. I appreciated staff bringing forth this issue and dedicating their time and attention to finding ways to help our citizens get back into a legal driving status and have equal opportunities to contribute to our community.

I support the elimination of mandatory jail time for driving on a suspended license due to failure to appear or pay fines and fees as sensible step to increasing the number of citizens achieving the goal of correcting the violations which lead to the suspended license and reinstating their licenses to a valid status while still providing appropriate accountability for bad actors. This legislation will better allow our prosecutors and courts to work with our citizens based on the unique circumstances of the case. This will positively impact the lives of our citizens and the community as a whole by getting these persons back into the workforce.

Thank you for your time and your consideration on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Padilla, Mayor

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