

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 8:30 a.m. on March 8, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Senator Les Donovan

Committee staff present:  
Daniel Yoza, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Toni Beck, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

**HB2132**

Proponents:

Representative Melanie Meier  
Diana Pitts, Vice President, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.  
Jennifer Jackman, American Gold Star Mothers Inc.  
Anita Dixon, American Gold Star Mothers Inc.  
Joani Unger, Gold Star Mothers, Written Testimony Only  
Laura Unger, Gold Star Mothers, Written Testimony Only  
Susanne Workman, Gold Star Mothers, Written Testimony Only  
Rebecca Escalante

Opponents:

Judith Dietz, Kansas Gold Star Family Committee  
Antoinette Ortiz-Colon, Kansas Gold Family Committee  
Jeannette Salcedo, Written Testimony Only  
Norman C Stahl  
Bob Hemenway

**HB2172**

Gayla Shields, Miami County Treasurer

Other attending:  
See attached list.

Jill Shelley, KLRD, presented information regarding insurance for lightweight roadable vehicles requested at a previous meeting. The FAIR Plan (Fair Access to Insurance Requirements) was created by the state of Kansas to insure property that insurance companies refuse to cover. Flight operations would not be covered and liability would eventually be in the surplus lines market, since it would be a new industry. (Attachment 1)

**HB 2132 - Issuance of gold star family license plates**

Chairman Umbarger opened the meeting on **HB2132**.

Diana Pitts provided testimony in support of the bill offering the definition of the Gold Star lapel pin. (Attachment 2) Jennifer Jackson provided testimony in support of the bill that there are nearly 1500 deaths per year other than hostile action on the battlefield. (Attachment 3) Anita Dixon provided testimony in support of the bill in regards to her son who died as a result of a roadside IED ambush. (Attachment 4) Joani Unger provided written testimony only reviewing the death of her brother, David Unger. (Attachment 5) Laura Unger provided written testimony only in support of the bill on behalf of her husband, David Unger. (Attachment 6) Susanne Workman provided testimony in support of the bill on behalf of her son, Horst Moore. (Attachment 7) Bob Hemenway provided testimony in support of the bill stating they all died in service to our great nation. (Attachment 8) Representative Melanie Meier testified in support of the bill stating they must all be honored and remembered at their sacrifice. She commented those killed non-combat are also Gold Star Families. (Attachment 9)

Judith Deitz testified in opposition to **HB2132** stating their fallen warriors deserve the dignity to have their own "true" Gold Star Family license plate. (Attachment 10) Antoinette Ortiz-Colon testified in

## CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 8, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

opposition to the bill stating she represents a “stand alone” bill for personnel who died while in a combat zone only. ([Attachment 11](#)) Jeannette Salcedo provided written testimony only in opposition of the bill stating it was originally intended as a tribute to soldiers KIA or in a combat zone. ([Attachment 12](#)) Norman Stahl testified as an opponent to the bill stating it will marginalize the heroic sacrifice of those lost in battle. ([Attachment 13](#)) Petition of signatures has been included for records. ([Attachment 14](#))

Virginia Harris testified as neutral stating her son was killed in 1986, and she would be considered next of kin in regards to a license plate. No written testimony was presented.

Chairman closed the hearing on **HB2132** with possible action to revisit next week.

### **HB 2172 - Registration of vehicles; renewal; certification of financial security**

Chairman opened the hearing on **HB2172**.

A ballooned amendment for the bill was presented by Daniel Yoza, Revisor, increasing the fees from \$15 in the coming year with an additional increase to \$20 the following year.

Gayla Shields testified in support of the bill that during the development stages of the new software, there was consensus with the Department of Revenue that this change is needed. ([Attachment 15](#))

Chairman closed the hearing on **HB2172** with possible action to revisit next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2011.