



February 6, 2017

Representative Richard Proehl

House Committee, Chair

Kansas House of Representatives

Kansas Capitol

RE: Letter of Support of HB 2076

Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Honorable Proehl:

As the Program Coordinator for the local Injury Free Coalition for Kids Coalition, I am writing this letter of support for HB2076: AN ACT concerning motor vehicles; relating to the use of safety belts; establishing the seat belt safety fund; amending K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 8-2504, 12-4120 and 74-7336 and repealing the existing sections. The SAFE bill is the seat belt education bill that expands the SAFE (Seat Belts are For Everyone) program.

The SAFE program was born in Southeast Kansas and has been nationally recognized. Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri are following Kansas' lead and have created their own SAFE programs now. I have observed the positive effects of the SAFE program when high school students work together with law enforcement, and local community support in implementing the concepts of the teen led SAFE program (education, enforcement, empowerment and evaluation).

Over the years, the seat belt usage rate in SAFE schools has risen while the teen motor vehicle crash death and injuries has been reduced in schools with the SAFE program. Traffic safety advocates would like to expand the SAFE program to every Kansas high school.

HB2076 expands the SAFE Program in all high schools statewide by increasing the seat belt fine by just \$20 so the program pays for itself. With the current budget situation in the state, the program must have a way to pay for itself. I feel it is important to note that this bill will fund an effective injury prevention program that, if funded, can make a difference in every local community

Returning the traffic violation fine to \$60 to match our child passenger safety law will fund the SAFE program! There is little effect or reduction on the traffic citation funds that support programs related to crime victim's compensation fund, the crime victims assistance fund, the community alcoholism and intoxication program, the department of corrections alcohol and drug abuse treatment program, the boating fee fund, the children's advocacy center programs, EMS revolving fund, the trauma fund and the traffic records enhancement fund, criminal justice information system line fund. The SAFE program will be funded with 2.2% of the traffic safety citation funds.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Larimore RN MPH PhD(c)

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