

HB 2076 – Creating the seat belt safety fund and increasing the fine for adult seat belt violations.

House Committee on Transportation

Neutral Testimony

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Chairman Proehl and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony upon HB 2076.

When bills appear altering fine amounts for traffic infractions, those typically fall outside of the concern of EMS. In fact, we appear before you today as a neutral party since the vast majority of HB 2076 falls outside of the concern/purview of the EMS Board.

We see two clear goals of this bill: 1) to reduce the number of preventable injuries and deaths on Kansas highways due to drivers and occupants not utilizing a seat belt; and 2) to reduce the severity of injury in vehicular accidents by utilizing the provided devices designed to increase occupant safety – in this instance, the seat belt.

What happens though when these two goals are not met? We have injuries, often times more severe, occurring on Kansas highways and roadways. These still occur and EMS and the trauma program are there to mitigate those injuries and to reduce the morbidity and mortality of those injuries, if possible, when they occur.

However, it is our belief that two adjustments contained within this bill will have an unintended consequence to EMS and the trauma program here in Kansas.

These adjustments pertain to the percentage disbursed to the EMS revolving fund and to the trauma fund pursuant to K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 74-7336. HB 2076 proposes to reduce that percentage by 0.05% to each fund. 0.05% is a relatively small percentage that would have equated to approx. \$8,570 in FY2016 (based upon 2.28% totaling \$390,856.41 in FY2016).

EMS and trauma are an absolutely critical safety net that need to be prepared to handle the presented emergency when motor vehicle accidents occur and occupants chose to either utilize or not utilize the safety device within their vehicle. At that point, EMS and trauma are two programs that are integral to reducing morbidity and mortality of injuries sustained in that accident.

When you work this bill, we ask for your consideration of the proposed amendment below to continue the percentage disbursed to the EMS revolving fund and to the trauma fund at the currently set statutory level, no increase and no decrease. We appreciate your consideration of this proposed amendment and I would be happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.

Proposed amendment – Page 2 - Lines 41-42

- 41 (7) ~~2.28%~~~~2.23%~~ **2.28%** to the EMS revolving fund;
42 (8) ~~2.28%~~~~2.23%~~ **2.28%** to the trauma fund;