

Senate Committee on Transportation

TO: **CHAIR:** MIKE PETERSON
VICE CHAIR: DAN GODDARD
Ranking Minority Member: Pat Pettey

RE: SB 459

From: Steve Christenberry

Date: March 11, 2020

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Goddard, Ranking Minority Member Pettey, and Members of the Committee.

I am Steve Christenberry, representing myself as a lifelong motorcyclist, and as a concerned member of the community. I am a life member of ABATE of Kansas and the American Motorcycle Association (AMA), as well as a member of the Motorcycle Rider Foundation, for well over the past 20 years. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for a bill that impacts all road users, be they pedestrians, automobile drivers, bicyclists, or motorcyclists.

The data about distracted driving suggests that it is clearly a contributing factor in motor vehicle crashes. Distracted driving includes a host of things, from thinking about work to shaving or putting on makeup to changing the channel on the radio, as well as operating hand held devices. Texting while driving is currently against the law thanks to legislation in recent years. Use of hand held devices to make calls is not currently against the law. SB 459 would prohibit use of any handheld devices while driving. We recognize that a hands free driving law does not prevent distracted driving. We recognize that the no texting bill did not stop texting. We do believe that laws that prohibit hands free driving will be a deterrent for some road users, and hopefully increasingly so as knowledge of the law expands. This bill will not only put into law the hands free driving clause, but it will also add penalties for inattentive driving, regardless of the reason for the inattention.

As a representative of the motorcycle community in Kansas, I/we support SB 459. We encourage the Senate Committee on Transportation to do so as well.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Steve Christenberry

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