



Kansas County & District Attorneys Association

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To: Chairman Jennings and Members of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee

From: Kim T Parker, Prosecutor Coordinator: Kansas County and District Attorney's Association

Date: January 18, 2018

Re: Proponent Testimony House Bill 2439

Good Afternoon Chairman Jennings and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of the passage of HB2439. I am addressing you on behalf of the Kansas County and District Attorney's Association and the many Kansas prosecutors they represent. Kansas prosecutors continue to be interested in modifications to the Kansas criminal code that address conduct that threatens public safety. HB2439 addresses conduct that is not otherwise adequately or specifically covered by other criminal statutes. This bill allows for an enhanced penalty for the unintentional killing of another individual when the individual is in violation of K.S.A. 8-1567, Kansas DUI law, and also driving while restricted, suspended or a habitual violator under Kansas traffic laws.

While the act of killing someone when driving under the influence is reprehensible, the conduct becomes even more culpable when the individual also has no legal right to drive, due to suspension, restriction or as a legally identified habitual violator of Kansas traffic laws. This bill acknowledges the increased culpability demonstrated when individuals drive upon our Kansas roadways usurp a human life while both intoxicated and without legal authority.

In the interest of increased public safety, Kansas County and District Attorney's Association urge the passage of HB2439.

Respectfully Submitted

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