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House of Representatives

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Committee Assignments
Vice Chair: Joint Committee on Administrative
Rules and Regulations
Vice-Chair: Federal and State Affairs
Agriculture
Transportation

March 9, 2018

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Transportation Committee

Ref: HB 2040 – An act regulating traffic; concerning the overtaking and passing of school buses, and penalties.

The issue of vehicles passing stopped school buses while loading or unloading children was brought to my attention by Frank Clark, Transportation Director of USD 378 Riley County Schools. While traveling a country road in my district I witnessed a car passing a stopped school bus with its stop sign extended and lights flashing. After checking further into this situation and visiting with school bus drivers, I became convinced that something needed to be done for the protection of our children. I have been contacted by transportation directors of school districts emphasizing the need for stricter enforcement and penalties.

Initially, the directors requested the option for cameras on buses to be purchased by the local school boards. After consultation with several attorneys on the House Judiciary Committee and the House Transportation Committee, this addition to the bill was redundant. Their opinion was that the current law allows camera placement.

This bill increases the fines for infraction of existing law. I am asking you to carefully consider this bill that offers remedies for this infraction of law. It appears that driver education and awareness campaigns are insufficient to date and further remedy is needed. I am a proponent of this legislation.

Respectively submitted,

Ronald L. Highland, D.V.M., Ph.D.

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