

State of Kansas  
House of Representatives

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Kristey S. Williams  
Representative, 77th District

Re: HB 2444 Oral Proponent Testimony

Jan. 23, 2020

Dear Chairman Proehl and the House Transportation Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for HB 2444 – the blackout license plate bill.

This past summer, the popularity of Iowa's Blackout plate came to my attention. After reviewing its history, taking a look at the simplistic and classic style of the plate, and considering how it might advantage Kansas – I worked with Rep. Francis and revisors to put together a plan that would positively impact Kansas roadways.

HB 2444 credits all proceeds from the distinctive plates to the local road improvement fund, which would be created by the State Treasury and administered by the Secretary of Transportation. The purpose of the blackout plate is to raise money and awareness for the funding of local roads through a cost-share program between the State and the participating city or county. The minimum cost share would be \$1 local with a \$3 state match. With over 140,000 miles of roads in Kansas, and considering the majority of these roads are maintained locally, this plate increases public awareness regarding the importance of preserving and maintaining our local roads.

All current statutory requirements for minimum plates and fees, as applicable, apply. The cost for the blackout plate would be \$35 annually.

It's our hope that this plate will generate more dollars for our local roads and increase public awareness of the State's on-going partnerships with cities and counties. Our roadway infrastructure, from the gravel backroads to our State highways, are a valuable asset to our State. This distinctive license plate celebrates this asset and provides a creative opportunity to generate more revenue for the long-term sustainability of our local roads.

Thank you for the opportunity to advocate for the blackout plate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kristey Williams', written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Kristey Williams

