

Chairman Proehl,

I rise and support of House Bill 2194 which calls for the distinctive license plate for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

The sorority was founded on January 15, 1908, at the historically black Howard University in Washington, D.C., by a group of sixteen students led by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle.

The sorority is one of the nation's largest Greek-letter organizations consisting of college-educated women of many diverse backgrounds from around the world. It serves through a membership of more than 300,000 women in 1,024 chapters in the United States and several other countries.

Here in Kansas, there are 8 active chapters. Some of the components of the sorority include civic engagement and public service. I have witnessed the sorority's Wichita graduate chapter (Beta Kappa Omega) raise awareness on issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic, breast cancer awareness, heart health and wellness, and financial literacy. They also raise money for scholarships for high school students throughout Sedgwick County.

I am asking for your full support on HB 2194, placing Kansas among the first twenty states in the nation to have passed legislation for an Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated License Plate.