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Written Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 2594  
House Committee on Transportation

Prepared by  
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Kansas Highway Patrol

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The Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of House Bill 2594, and we respectfully request the Committee consider our agency's concerns.

Regarding the allowable removal of the manufacturer's serial number or identification number of an antique vehicle, the Patrol already has a process in place that allows us to work with those individuals in this scenario. Currently, if a citizen asks about the removal of a VIN plate, the Patrol will work with that individual to ensure the removal process is documented by allowing us to see the vehicle identification number (VIN) in its original condition prior to removal. When this process is followed, and the vehicle in question comes to the Patrol for inspection, any question of fraud has been removed and the inspection is completed with the addition of a replacement VIN. This is simply a security label with the original identification number. This label is added to the public VIN plate and does not replace the original manufacturer's serial or identification number. By adding this label any future owner or law enforcement agency is aware that the removal of the VIN plate was known by the Kansas Highway Patrol and that there were no concerns regarding theft or any other criminal act relating to the vehicle.

To ensure that lawful owners are not charged criminally under by K.S.A. 8-116, the Patrol requests that in addition to any language allowing for the removal of a VIN, the Legislature also consider adding a requirement that the vehicle be inspected by the Patrol prior to any removal. This would allow us to document the vehicle's identity and the removal process, thus protecting innocent citizens of Kansas from fraud, while still holding those accountable who traffic in stolen vehicles. This inspection and documentation process would also potentially act as a defense should an innocent owner be charged criminally under K.S.A. 8-116, adding an additional layer of legal protection.

We sincerely thank members of the Committee for their consideration of our testimony.

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