



KCA
KANSAS CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION

January 25, 2022

**Proponent Testimony on SB 332
Senate Transportation Committee**

Chairman Petersen and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of the Kansas Contractors Association (KCA). The KCA represents more than 200 companies working in Kansas' heavy construction industry. Collectively, these companies create and sustain more than 40,000 good-paying, private sector jobs across our state.

KCA members manage hundreds of construction zones each day across Kansas. SB 332 would help improve the safety for thousands of construction zone workers.

SB 332 is a narrowly defined "hands free cellphone bill". The bill would prohibit the handheld use of a cell phone for all drivers under the age of 18 and all drivers, regardless of age, when driving through a construction or school zone.

I have attached to my testimony the Kansas Work Zone Crash statistics from 2019 and 2020. Total crashes for the two-year period were 2,674 with 8 fatality crashes. There were 602 injury crashes with 840 people injured. We know inattentive driving (cell phone use) contributes to these statistics. SB 332 is a narrow approach to improving these statistics and the safety of construction zones in Kansas.

Many states have passed similar laws to restrict the use of cell phones particularly for drivers under the age of 18 and for drivers in construction and school zones. SB 332 is consistent with laws passed in 30 states to restrict handheld cell phone use. Some states only restrict the use when workers are present in a construction zone. KCA would agree with such an amendment if it is the desire of the committee.

We know distracted driving is a problem, so we applaud the effort outlined in SB 332 to help keep Kansans safe, particularly those working and driving in construction zones.

We appreciate your favorable consideration of SB 332.

Michael White, Executive Director
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2020 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2020

Total Crashes - 1,243	Property Damage Only - 945
Fatal Crashes - 1	Persons Killed - 2
Injury Crashes - 297	Persons Injured - 400

Of the 2 people killed in work zone crashes, **all were motorists.**

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in **62** percent of all work zone crashes.

The **top 5 contributing circumstances** were followed too closely, inattention, too fast for conditions, improper lane change, disregarded signs-signals-markings.

There were no adverse weather conditions in **90** percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in **78** percent of the crashes

*The **2020** data are incomplete and unofficial at this time.



2019 Kansas Work Zone Statistics

Kansas Work Zone Crash Statistics in 2019

Total Crashes - 1,431	Property Damage Only - 1,119
Fatal Crashes - 7	Persons Killed - 7
Injury Crashes - 305	Persons Injured - 440

Of the 7 people killed in work zone crashes, **all were motorists.**

Driver-related contributing circumstances were recorded in **67** percent of all work zone crashes.

The **top 5 contributing circumstances** were inattention, followed too closely, improper lane change, right of way violations, and too fast for conditions.

There were no adverse weather conditions in **90** percent of work zone crashes.

The crashes happened during daylight hours in **78** percent of the crashes

