

House Transportation Committee
Testimony
February 6, 2013
HB 2079

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Brian Thompson and I am a life member of ABATE of Kansas, an organization representing motorcycle riders in Kansas. I am also a lobbyist for ABATE.

I want to thank the committee for introducing House Bill 2079 regarding right-of-way violations in Kansas. Right-of-way violations on our roadways are very serious violations affecting all motorists.

These violations, when the cause of collisions, cause damage to the vehicles involved. Even worse, they cause injuries to the drivers and passengers. Beyond injuries, deaths occur because drivers fail to yield the right-of-way to other traffic. In the eleven years from 2000 through 2010, 1,082 deaths occurred because of right-of-way violation collisions. That averages 98 deaths per year.

Penalties for any traffic violation are probably enough of a deterrent for most drivers to take the proper precautions to avoid accidents. But even those penalties are not enough for some people to drive safely. Increased penalties are needed. It is my belief that increasing penalties for multiple violations of the same law could help reduce the number of violations. If the penalties for right-of-way violations are more severe and increase for multiple violations, I believe people would be more careful and take the extra time to be sure it is clear before they pull onto a highway or street. The extra second or two taken to make sure the roadway is clear can mean the difference between life and death.

I ask you to pass this out favorably and make our roadways safer for all who travel them.

Thank you for the time to speak today. I will stand for questions.