

January 31, 2017

Amanda Gress, Director of Government Relations
Kansas Action for Children
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2077
House Judiciary Committee

Chairman Finch and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for considering House Bill 2077, which will reduce perceived barriers to promoting the proper use of child safety seats. Kansas Action for Children's vision is to make Kansas the best state to raise a child, and our organization shapes health, education, and economic policies that benefit Kansas children and their families. Kansas Action for Children has a long history of supporting efforts to improve child passenger safety in Kansas by advancing child safety seat legislation, graduated drivers licensing implementation, and primary enforcement of teen seat belt usage. House Bill 2077 will further improve Kansas child passenger safety.

Child safety seats save lives. Adult seat belts are not designed to fit younger children, and child safety seats make it more likely that Kansas children survive potentially fatal car crashes. Child Passenger Safety Technicians help inform and assist families in proper child safety seat usage, so that child safety seats can protect children from harm in the event of a crash.

House Bill 2077 reduces perceived barriers in promoting child safety seats. Community car seat checkup events raise awareness about the importance of child passenger safety, educate parents about the child safety seat that is best for their child, and provide hands-on assistance in installing child safety seats. House Bill 2077 will allay the liability concerns of community organizations considering hosting a nonprofit child safety seat event with certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. This will mean that more Kansas families can benefit from the critical service provided by child passenger safety experts.

For these reasons, Kansas Action for Children supports House Bill 2077 to protect Kansas child passengers. As this Committee works to advance child passenger safety, please do not hesitate to contact Kansas Action for Children by emailing me (amanda@kac.org) if we can answer questions or otherwise be of assistance.

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