



Kansas Democratic Party

Testimony for Hearing on Monday, February 16th
House Elections Committee
HB 2213 and HB 2215

The Kansas Democratic Party is testifying in Support of HB 2213.

We support the higher campaign limits which are more realistic in today's economy.

Receiving contributions for the general election during the primary cycle is more problematic for us, but is not uncommon in other states and is a benefit to candidates. As long as the provision remains in the bill to return the contribution to the contributor if for some reason the candidate doesn't advance to the general election, we can support this provision.

The Kansas Democratic Party is testifying in Opposition to HB 2215.

This bill is highly objectionable to the KDP. By allowing the transfer of campaign funds "to a bona fide successor committee or candidacy" you are setting up a situation where a candidate could receive a large amount of funds from someone who has held office for a considerable period of time, and upon leaving, can ensure an unfair advantage to the recipient candidate.

Open seats represent opportunity for challengers to compete on an equal footing. This bill removes that equalizing effect and guarantees that one party will hold a seat for the foreseeable future by making it impossible for a challenger to compete fairly.

We urge you to report this bill unfavorably.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joan Wagon
Chairperson, Kansas Democratic Party