

March 11, 2016

Testimony before the House Committee on General Government Budget

Re: House Bill # 2719

Thank you for your time today to hear from a fellow Kansan and avid library user. My name is Vicky Sue Gross. I am a Marysville, Kansas City Councilwoman. I address you today in hopes you will defeat H.B. 2719 which could potentially eliminate approximately 44% of our library's regional systems budget.

When deciding to move from Dallas, Texas back to my home town of Marysville, Kansas after 33 years living in a big city, one of the top deciding factors was the quality and resources of our local library. I am at the library up to 3 times a week and see parents bringing their preschoolers, school children flood in to participate in the summer reading program, adults come to browse and use the courier to obtain books unavailable from the local book collection. Many special programs offered by the library could be affected, even eliminated if 44% of the NCKLS budget were cut by H.B. # 2719.

At a time when small towns of Kansas are losing population, I believe it would be prudent to maintain the quality and scope of programs offered by our libraries that let our citizens know they have access to knowledge and varied resources and are in total touch with all corners of the world without leaving our local towns of Kansas. With the quality of materials, programs, and information resources available through our legislative supported libraries, there is no feeling of isolation or being uninformed or a need to move to a large city out of Kansas, thus taking their tax dollars and children, our future, out of our state when we are in need of population growth.

I thank you for your time. And thank you for the work you do on behalf of the citizens of Kansas.

Best regards,

Vicky Sue Gross

City Councilwoman Ward 3

Marysville, Kansas