

Approved: April 9, 1999
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Lana Oleen at 12:05 p.m. on March 26, 1999 in Room 254-E of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Vratil, Excused

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research Department
Russell Mills, Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Revisors of Statutes
Judy Glasgow, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Chuck Yunkers, American Legion, State Headquarters
Tom Frenn, Kansas Charities Corporation
Ralph Snyder, Sunflower Club Association
Carl Nelson, American Legion Holton
Ray Hamlin, Wetmore, Kansas

Others attending: See attached sheet

Chairman Oleen opened the hearing on **Substitute HB 2013 - Bingo; regulation and taxation: progressive bingo games**

Chairman Oleen recognized Chuck Yunkers, American Legion, State Headquarters. Mr. Yunkers spoke as a proponent to **Substitute HB 2013**. (Attachment 1). He stated that The American Legion Department of Kansas, voted unanimously to endorse the concept of **HB 2013**, but ask that several amendments to the bill be offered. He stated that many bingo games have become a community service for bingo players rather than a charitable fund raising source to be used to benefit a wide variety of community services. He asked to report **Substitute HB 2013** favorably.

Chairman Oleen called on Tom Frenn, Kansas Charities Cooperative. Mr. Frenn stated that Kansas Charities Cooperative is an association of non profit fraternal organizations and bingo halls in Kansas the use bingo for their fund raising efforts. (Attachment 2). Mr. Frenn asked the committee to support **Substitute HB 2013** to safeguard the success of bingo for non-profit organizations in Kansas.

Mr. Ralph Snyder, Kansas Sunflower Club Association was recognized by Chairman Oleen. Mr. Snyder stated that **Substitute for HB 2013** lowers taxes on bingo and provides the means to slow the competition faced from Indian Casinos and river boats by the addition of two progressive jackpots (Attachment 3). Mr. Snyder stated that those in Kansas who sponsor bingo games are true, non-profit charitable groups who rely on their volunteer members to conduct bingo and all of these profits stay in the communities to fund local programs.

Chairman Oleen recognized Mr. Carl Nelson, The American Legion, Holton, Kansas. Mr. Nelson stated that **Substitute HB 2013** as passed by the house is satisfactory to his organization. (Attachment 4) It will allow the Holton post to retain more of the current revenue from bingo proceeds and make it desirable to continue the weekly games. Mr. Nelson stated that Holton American Legion does not oppose to the phase out of the hard-cards; but does understand that the loss could have serious impact on some small sponsors of bingo and suggested some plan could be devised to allow them to continue in some fashion.

Chairman Oleen called on Mr. Ray Hamlin, The American Legion, Wetmore, Kansas. Mr. Hamlin provided receipts that showed that over \$3300 was paid by the American Legion in Wetmore in taxes. (Attachment 5). Mr. Hamlin stated that if less taxes were paid there would be more assets to support local activities.

Chairman Oleen announced that hearings on **Substitute HB 2013** will continue on Monday, March 29, 1999 beginning with opponents to the bill..

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS, Room 254-E
Statehouse, at 12:05 a.m. on March 26, 1999.

Chairman Oleen announced that **SB 278 - tobacco, sampling notice prior to distribution** would be read in on the Senate floor when session reconvened today.

Chairman Oleen announced that Mr. Fadale has been working with interested parties on SB 304 and that at their request this bill will remain in the committee. Mr. Fadale stated that after meeting with interested parties on **SB 313**, it was decided that there were other ways of achieving the requested results and that this bill be reported unfavorably so that a new approach can come forward on this subject. Senator Harrington moved to report SB 313 unfavorably by the committee. The motion was seconded by Senator Biggs. The motion carried.

Chairman Oleen announced that new language is being developed by staff on **SB 322** and **SB 317** and that possible action will take place sometime next week.

Chairman Oleen asked Senator Becker to give the committee an update on **HCR 5021**. Senator Becker stated that new language had been added to **HCR 5021** to strengthen the language and directed more to Kansas. (Attachment 6). The new language will be added on at the end of **HCR 5021**. Senator Becker also requested that media be notified when the resolution is presented on the Senate floor. Chairman Oleen noted that a news release could be done and requested that staff prepare one. Senator Harrington moved to report HCR 5021 favorably as amended to the full Senate. Senator Biggs seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of the committee.

Chairman Oleen noted that written testimony had been received from Jay Jones, Celebrations, as an opponent to **HB 2040 (Attachment 7)**.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting of the committee will be March 29, 1999.

SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST

DATE: MARCH 26, 1999

NAME	REPRESENTING
Ray Hamlin	282 Legion Wetmore
Carl Nelson	Amer. Legion. 44, Holton
Clarence L. Ash	Post 282 Wetmore
Melba Ash	Post 282 (Aux) Wetmore
Evelyn Suther	Post #282 (Aux) Wetmore
Mehri Osterhaus	282 Legion Wetmore KS
Floyd ShubKugel	post #163 Maysville KS
Nancy L. Johnston	Amer. Legion Dept. of KS
Rhanni D. Hayes	Post 225 OZARKIE KS
Jim Conant	ABC / KDOR
Phil Wilkes	KDOR
Milton Thieme	Wetmore Hon. Post 282
Gerald Worthington	Post #1 Topeka
Dave Schneider	Kansans For Life At Its Best
Bud Vaughn	Post #1 Topeka
Milton Richardson	Post #1 Topeka
Heile Laughlin	Capitol Post #1 Topeka, KS
James J. Hartman	AM. LEGION CAPITOL POST 1 TOPEKA
Glen THOMPSON	SU FK

SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST

DATE: March 26 - 1999

NAME	REPRESENTING
Tom Frenn	Kansas Chapter Cooperatives
JOHN P HOY	POST (5)
BILL GARDNER	AMERICAN Legion
Jim Louther	Post #5, Am. Legion Emporia
Charles Yunker	KS American Legion
Ralph Snyder	KS. Sunflower Club

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 2013
PRESENTED TO
SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
BY CHARLES M. YUNKER, DEPT. ADJUTANT
KANSAS AMERICAN LEGION

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to present testimony on Substitute for House Bill 2013. My name is Charles Yunker and I represent the American Legion Department of Kansas as its State Adjutant.

On Friday, February 5, 1999 the Executive Committee of The American Legion Department of Kansas, which serves as our governing body between Conventions, voted unanimously to endorse the concept of HB 2013, but directed me to seek several amendments to the original bill.

Those amendments included:

- I. Allow for the use of "hard" or reusable cards beyond the year 2001 in special cases as determined by the Department of Revenue. These special cases could include but not be limited to braille cards, normal hard cards for the physically or sight impaired who have difficulty using paper face cards, and those non-profit organizations who only conduct Bingo games once or twice a year for special events such as church bazaars, school PTA's and PTO's, etc.

- II. Retention of Bingo enforcement under the Department of Revenue. By collecting taxes when paper faces are purchased by licensees.

Sen. Federal & State Affairs Comm.
Date: 3-26-99
Attachment: # 1-1

we feel there is no merit to being placed under the Racing and Gaming Commission which the original bill called for. Bingo is small stakes gaming and more often looked upon as entertainment, not gambling. Further, many Bingo licensees' premises also contain a Private Club, (not accessible to Bingo players) therefore it is more economical for the state to only send one inspector to a given location, and more convenient to the licensees to undergo a liquor and Bingo inspection at the same time.

III. Lowering the originally proposed .003% tax per paper Bingo face to .002% which is comparable to what we are paying today. We also feel Kansas should not have a tax rate higher than Missouri's .002%.

IV. Adding a provision allowing two additional special or jackpot progressive games whose prizes would be over and above the \$1200 maximum payout per session currently allowed. We asked that a beginning prize for such games not exceed \$250.00, and not increase more than \$100.00 per Bingo Session before the prizes are awarded.

--A few years ago we asked the Legislature to approve Instant Bingo as a means to offset competition from high stakes gaming. We appreciate your approval of Instant Bingo; it helped stem the erosion of our charitable fund raising and has provided additional tax revenue for Kansas just as we said it would.

However as indicated earlier, many Bingo games have become a community service for Bingo players rather than a charitable fund raising source to be used to benefit a wide variety of community services. We believe the authorization of two progressive jackpots will help restore and maintain our community service programs, slow the competition of high stakes gaming at Indian casinos and Missouri river boats, and provide even more tax revenue to the state. We would not be here today if it were not for the competition from high stakes gaming at casinos and river boats.

In closing with perhaps one or two exceptions I believe all of us, Parlors and those who own our buildings, are in agreement today with the provisions of Substitute for House Bill 2013 and we ask that you support it in its present form without further amendments.

KANSAS CHARITIES COOPERATIVE

5265 SW 28th Ct,
Topeka, KS 66614
785-273-8304



MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: HB 2013

Kansas Charities Cooperative is an association of non profit fraternal organizations and bingo halls in Kansas that use bingo for their fundraising efforts.

We have been involved in bingo for almost eight years and during that time there has never been anything as devastating as the casino's to Kansas bingo games . In some cities like Olatha, Ks where bingo had been used as fundraising for decades there are now **no more bingo games by any non profit organizations.** The American Legion and Knights of Columbus had bingo there for years before the riverboats came to Kansas City.

Please support HB 2013 because it brings bingo taxes down to a favorable rate compared to the national average of 2.5% instead of the present 9.15% in Kansas.

We also support the state American Legion with their suggestion of adding two progressive bingo games and along with the reduction of taxes you can help safeguard the success of bingo for non-profit organizations in Kansas. We ask for your vote in favor of HR 2013.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thomas Frenn', written in black ink.

Thomas Frenn

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 2013
PRESENTED TO
SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

My name is Ralph Snyder and I represent the Kansas Sunflower Club Association. Our Association was formed almost thirty years ago to lobby for the legalization of Bingo in the State of Kansas. After accomplishing that goal the Association elected to remain in existence to monitor Bingo and liquor laws as they effect our member organizations.

Our members include American Legion and VFW Posts and Auxiliaries, Knights of Columbus Councils, Eagles, Elks and Moose Lodges, the Shrine and a variety of other religious and civic groups including a Chamber of Commerce, Arthritis Water Exercise Clubs, Baseball Associations, Mentally Handicapped Assistance Groups, etc. located throughout the state of Kansas. Some of the cities represented by those organizations include Agra, Arkansas City, Atchison, Chanute, Clyde, Clay Center, Coffeyville, Concordia, Derby, Dodge City, Douglas, Elkhart, El Dorado, Emporia, Fredonia, Frontenac, Galena, Garden City, Grainfield, Great Bend, Hays, Hiawatha, Holton, Hutchinson, Iola, Junction City, Kansas City, Larned, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Liberal, Manhattan, Marysville, McPherson, Newton, Olpe, Osage City, Osawatomie, Overland Park, Parsons, Pittsburg, Pratt, Prairie Village, Russell, Salina, St. George, Shawnee, Topeka, WaKeeney, Wetmore, and Wichita.

We are seeking your approval of Substitute for House Bill 2013 as our local non profit organizations need your help. Help which you can provide through your support so they may continue and hopefully increase their local programs which benefit thousands of Kansas citizens.

Substitute for House Bill 2013 lowers taxes on Bingo and provides the means to slow the
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competition we face from Indian Casinos and River boats by the addition of two progressive jackpots.

My testimony today is based on some of the letters and cards we've received from our member organizations. Jane Schumacher of the Hays Baseball Association which sponsors three teams wrote "God Bless You. We really appreciate what you are doing -- The kids deserve it! Again Thanks!"

Glen A. Miller, the Adjutant-Quartermaster of Great Bend VFW Post 3111 said, "Let's do our very best to eliminate all the taxes on Bingo."

Donalem Conway of VFW Auxiliary 56 in Leavenworth perhaps says it best. "We work hard to raise money to do things for veterans at the VA and their families. But last year we went in the hole after paying \$6,831.45 in taxes for Bingo. We could have done a lot more for them. We had to cash in our savings bonds to do Christmas for them last year." "We are so close to Missouri and the boats that it has really hurt us. I don't know if we should cut our prices or hope things will get better." "There has been four Bingo places close in Leavenworth this past year. We have got to have some place for the older people without going on buses all over to spend their money to have fun."

To summarize my testimony we ask that you pass Substitute for House Bill 2013 without any amendments and that you support its passage in the Kansas Senate as quickly as possible. Bingo operators need your help. Please remember those in Kansas who sponsor Bingo games are true, non-profit charitable groups who rely on their volunteer members to conduct Bingo. We are not casinos or race tracks with high paid professional employees or owners and all of our profits stay in our communities to fund local programs.

MARY L. BAIR POST NO. 44
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Holton, Kansas 66436

Testimony before the Kansas Senate committee on Federal and State Affairs, 26 March 1999, 1100 hours.

My name is Carl Nelson. I am the commander of the American Legion post in Holton, Kansas. In addition I serve as vice-chair of the Jackson County Tourism Council.

The tourism council advertises Holton as the center of "Casino Country". And that is a fact. Three very large, glittering and colorful casinos grace our corner of Kansas within about twenty miles of Holton.

Holton's small American Legion post conducts weekly bingo games as does the local post of the VFW. This has been traditionally a fun type event for the attendees, has been very well conducted and provides some fundraising for each of our small posts. Players for the American Legion bingo nights usually numbered fifty-five to sixty. Recently we have seen that number decrease to thirty to thirty-five.

We attribute that loss to competition from the casinos. We still offer the same fun, good refreshments and snacks, but attendance is down.

The Bingo bill as passed by the house is entirely satisfactory to us. It will allow our post to retain more of the current revenue from our bingo proceeds and make it again desirable to continue our weekly games.

We use the paper bingo sheets so we have no adverse reaction to the phase out of the hard-cards. But we do understand that the loss of the hard-cards could seriously and adversely impact some small sponsors of bingo such as churches, school PTOs and even some veterans organizatione who still rely on these. Perhaps some plan could be devised to allow these to continue.

Carl F. Nelson, Commander

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GENERAL EXPENSES
 1998

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 Attachment: # 5-

	Amount Paid	Supplies	Other	Utilities	Telephone	Insurance	Interest	Furniture Fixtures Equipment	Building	Dues Paid To State
January 1998	652 ⁴⁹	228 ⁷⁶		243 ⁸⁵	29 ⁹³			115 ²⁵		34 ⁰⁰
February 1998	1033 ⁶⁹	36 ⁶⁷	25 ⁰⁰	252 ²⁷	30 ¹⁸			604 ⁵⁷		85 ⁰⁰
March 1998	292 ³²	—		227 ⁹⁰	30 ⁴²			—		34 ⁰⁰
1st Qtr. Totals	1978 ⁵⁰	265 ⁴³	25 ⁰⁰	724 ⁰²	90 ⁵³			720 ⁵²	—	153 ⁰⁰
April 1998	371 ⁰⁵	—	13 ⁵⁵	242 ¹²	29 ⁹³				85 ⁴⁵	
May 1998	320 ⁷¹	—	38 ⁵⁵	184 ²⁵	30 ⁹¹		67 ⁰⁰			
June 1998	657 ³¹	198 ³⁵	63 ⁵⁵	526 ⁰⁹	30 ²⁹			139 ⁰³		
2nd Qtr. Totals	1349 ⁰⁷	198 ³⁵	115 ⁶⁵	652 ⁴⁶	91 ¹³		67 ⁰⁰	139 ⁰³	85 ⁴⁵	
July 1998	923 ¹⁵	—	265 ⁷⁴	234 ⁸⁶	31 ⁵⁵		—	—	—	391 ⁰⁰
August 1998	481 ⁶⁹	—	101 ⁰³	341 ²¹	39 ³⁵		—	—	—	
September 1998	3023 ²⁹	—	39 ⁶³	372 ⁸⁸	31 ⁷⁸	2137 ⁰⁰	—	—	—	442 ⁰⁰
3rd Qtr. Totals	4428 ¹³	—	406 ⁴⁰	949 ⁰⁵	102 ⁶⁸	2137 ⁰⁰	—	—	—	833 ⁰⁰
October 1998	477 ⁶⁵	—	84 ²³	358 ³⁵	35 ⁰⁷					
November 1998	573 ⁰⁹	48 ⁰⁴	82 ²⁰	257 ¹²	32 ⁷³					153 ⁰⁰
December 1998	576 ³⁵		218 ⁴⁹	236 ⁵⁷	31 ⁵⁹				89 ⁷⁰	
4th Qtr. Totals	1627 ⁰⁹	48 ⁰⁴	384 ⁹²	852 ⁰⁴	99 ³⁹	—	—	—	89 ⁷⁰	153 ⁰⁰
Totals for Year	9382 ⁷⁹	511 ⁸²	931 ⁹⁷	3177 ⁵⁷	383 ⁷³	2137 ⁰⁰	67 ⁰⁰	859 ⁵⁵	175 ¹⁵	1139 ⁰⁰

The American Legion
Levick-Barrett Post #282

GENERAL RECEIPTS
1998

5-2

		General	Dues	Bingo To General
January	1998	2040 ⁰⁰	—	—
February	1998	—	100 ⁰⁰	—
March	1998	45 ⁰⁰	40 ⁰⁰	3000 ⁰⁰
1st Qtr. Totals		2085 ⁰⁰	140 ⁰⁰	3000 ⁰⁰
April	1998	—	—	—
May	1998	40 ⁰⁰	40 ⁰⁰	—
June	1998	250 ⁰⁰	—	—
2nd Qtr. Totals		290 ⁰⁰	40 ⁰⁰	—
July	1998	—	380 ⁰⁰	—
August	1998	67 ⁰⁰	380 ⁰⁰	—
September	1998	25 ⁰⁰	120 ⁰⁰	3000 ⁰⁰
3rd Qtr. Totals		92 ⁰⁰	880 ⁰⁰	3000 ⁰⁰
October	1998	948 ³⁶	—	—
November	1998	266 ⁸⁶	180 ⁰⁰	—
December	1998	2740 ⁰⁰	20 ⁰⁰	—
4th Qtr. Totals		3755 ²²	200 ⁰⁰	—
Totals for Year		6422 ²²	1260 ⁰⁰	6000 ⁰⁰

(7120) Memorial
Levick

The American Legion
Levick-Barrett Post #282

BINGO
1998

Paper
Pull-Tabs
Daubers

5-3

		Gross Receipts	Pull-Tab Receipts	Dauber Receipts	Sales Tax	Bingo Tax	Paid-Out Cash	Other Expense	XFer To General	Net	After Taxes
January	1998	4539 ⁹³	357 ⁰⁰	30 ⁷⁵	554 ⁸²	82 ⁷³	3227 ⁰⁰	238 ⁶¹		1312 ⁹³	931 ³⁹
February	1998	2883 ³⁰	193 ⁷⁵	34 ⁵⁰	—	128 ⁶¹	2333 ⁰⁰	117 ⁹⁹		550 ³⁰	307 ⁹⁹
March	1998	3220 ⁰⁰	184 ⁷⁵	22 ⁰⁰	—	81 ⁶⁸	2315 ⁰⁰	126 ⁷²	3000 ⁰⁰	905 ⁰⁰	634 ³⁸
1st Qtr. Totals		10643 ²³	735 ⁵⁰	87 ²⁵	554 ⁸²	293 ⁰²	7875 ⁰⁰	238 ⁶¹	3000 ⁰⁰	2768 ²³	1873 ⁷⁶
April	1998	3443 ⁰⁰	197 ⁰⁰	30 ⁰⁰	592 ⁹⁶	91 ²²	2566 ⁰⁰	281 ⁰²		877 ⁰⁰	587 ⁶⁶
May	1998	4245 ⁰⁰	183 ²⁵	28 ²⁵	—	97 ⁵⁴	2781 ⁰⁰	87 ²⁵		1264 ⁰⁰	903 ³²
June	1998	2868 ⁰⁰	136 ⁵⁰	23 ⁰⁰	—	120 ⁵⁷	2240 ⁰⁰	190 ⁰⁸		622 ⁰⁰	385 ²⁸
2nd Qtr. Totals		10556 ⁰⁰	516 ⁷⁵	81 ²⁵	592 ⁹⁶	309 ³³	7587 ⁰⁰	558 ³⁵		2769 ⁰⁰	1879 ²⁶
July	1998	2098 ⁰⁰	121 ²⁵	17 ⁷⁵	589 ⁸³	81 ⁸²	1821 ⁰⁰	282 ²⁵		277 ⁰⁰	100 ⁶⁸
August	1998	3555 ⁰⁰	185 ³⁵	27 ⁵⁰	—	58 ⁴³	2844 ⁰⁰	—		711 ⁰⁰	412 ²²
September	1998	3280 ⁰⁰	211 ²⁰	35 ²⁵	—	100 ⁷¹	2499 ⁰⁰	188 ¹²	3000 ⁰⁰	781 ⁰⁰	505 ³⁴
3rd Qtr. Totals		8933 ⁰⁰	517 ⁶⁰	80 ⁵⁰	589 ⁸³	240 ⁹⁶	7164 ⁰⁰	470 ³⁷	3000 ⁰⁰	1769 ⁰⁰	1018 ²⁴
October	1998	3584 ⁰⁰	235 ⁰⁰	34 ⁵⁰	497 ⁶⁸	92 ⁹²	2907 ⁰⁰	27 ⁰⁰		677 ⁰⁰	381 ⁷²
November	1998	2873 ⁰⁰	160 ⁷⁵	36 ⁷⁵	—	101 ⁵³	2483 ⁰⁰	318 ³²		390 ⁰⁰	148 ⁵⁵
December	1998	3649 ⁰⁰	233 ⁵⁰	33 ⁰⁰	—	81 ³⁹	2797 ⁰⁰	—		852 ⁰⁰	545 ³⁴
4th Qtr. Totals		10106 ⁰⁰	629 ²⁵	104 ²⁵	497 ⁶⁸	275 ⁸⁴	8187 ⁰⁰	345 ³²		1919 ⁰⁰	1075 ⁶¹
Totals for Year		46238 ²³	2399 ¹⁰	353 ²⁵	2235 ²⁹	1119 ¹⁵	31013 ⁰⁰	1612 ⁶⁵	6000 ⁰⁰	9225 ²³	5846 ⁸⁷

WHEREAS, Kansas has thousands of deployable troops at facilities such as Fort Riley, Fort Leavenworth, McConnell Air Base, as well as reservists and members of our Kansas National Guard.

WHEREAS, the results of the Kansas Persians Gulf War Veterans Health Initiative are very troubling, we must do all we can to prevent a repeat of "Gulf War illness" in any future conflict that affects our Kansas military men and women.

Be it further resolved: That we urge our Kansas Congressional delegation to coordinate acquisition of Federal Grants from the National Institute of Health (N.I.H.) or other federal sources to seek causes and cures for Gulf War illness.

Be it further resolved: That we urge our Kansas Congressional delegation to build coalitions with other states to call on Congress and the administration for action in investigating and finding answers to Gulf War illness.

Be it further resolved: That we encourage our Kansas Congressional delegation to meet with members of the Kansas Persian Gulf War Veterans Initiative to coordinate efforts on the federal level.

Written Testimony from Jay Jones, owner of Celebrations! Fun Equipment Rental of Wichita, Kansas regarding Senate Bill 2040 on March 23, 1999.

Celebrations! is an amusement rental business employing over 100 part time employees, depending on the time of year. We supply all types of equipment from inflatable events such as moonwalks, mazes, obstacle courses and such to hard rides like trackless trains. We also provide games, team sports, even gaming equipment and game shows.

In five years we have been lucky enough have grown from one moon bounce with a \$4,000 investment to an inventory of over 50 different events with an investment of well over \$250,000. We are members of the Amusement Rental division of O.A.B.A., the Outdoor Amusement Business Association. Their primary representative, Bob Johnson is also in attendance here today.

I am listed as a proponent of the Bill 2040, however after reading the proposed changes and additions to the bill, I am now a opponent. Please understand that I am proponent of inspection, provided they are fair, logical and affordable. My business, is currently excluded from the bill, however **inflatable rides should be subject to inspection**. My primary opposition lies in the section regarding charities and state owned equipment being not subject to this bill.

I became a non paid, volunteer director for Kansas Special Olympics over an area called Olympic Village. It is the recreation area set aside for the 2000 athletes to spend time in while between Summer Games events each June in Wichita. I held the position for over 7 years. Since starting Celebrations! we have worked with countless charities, schools, churches and fund raising groups. This gives me an insight to the inside workings of volunteered driven organizations such as those covered in the bill

The outright purchase of rides currently covered in Bill 2040 is doubtful. Donations of no longer needed amusement rides for tax deductions is very likely, however. The condition of the donated rides would be suspect. Executives in these organizations have tunnel vision to raising money. They might assume the rides are in working order and begin use. While the person donating the rides would likely include initial training, they would not be required to do so for incoming volunteers. **Turnover in management positions of these types of organizations is only exceeded by the turnover in the volunteer base!**

Excluding them from the requirements of this bill would have serious ramifications.

Well meaning, albeit non educated volunteers could very easily put children riders in harms way. Parents would let it happen, assuming the rides were being run by fully trained employees. Volunteers would never intentionally hurt riders, but might never understand a danger to these riders.

Attracting and acquiring volunteers is a fulltime paid position for most of the national and regional charitable organizations. Once an accident happens, involving a volunteer operator and personal liability becomes an issue, the volunteer base would be even further eroded.

I support the bill, without the these listed provisions. Without an inspection law in Kansas, we are likely to become a dumping ground for dangerous rides. Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado and Oklahoma, in all 45 states have these laws. Where will the rides go that can't or don't want to pass inspections?

(The following was not presented at the hearing but might be considered.)

A ride owner at the hearing Tuesday stated that his three rides were brought when small towns could not support a full carnival. His was the last line of entertainment for these towns. (Celebrations! supplied inflatables at 2 of the 3 towns he mentioned.) He claimed Nebraska inspects his rides for free. If another state requires an annual inspection, could Kansas accept that states inspection on a piece of equipment?

The gentleman was correct in that small towns are no longer attracting full carnivals. They are contracting with companies like mine to provide inflatable rides instead of Ferris Wheels and such. It's just a matter of time before you must regard inflatables as real rides.

Inflatables should be inspected and owner operators should be required to have insurance to operate in Kansas. There are well over 100 individuals renting moonwalks a.k.a moon bounces out of their homes, in Kansas. They doubtfully pay taxes, have insurance or even require operators. Moon bounces are the single most dangerous event we put kids in today. Operators, even if they are present, are depending on kids to not do the one thing they do exceedingly well, which is the unexpected. It takes just seconds to hit heads together. Bloody noses and split lips are most common but broken legs and concussions also happen.

The bill should be amended to include these very common rides.

I would appreciate being updated or if I can be of any further assistance in this matter, I can be contacted at Celebrations! 1401 S Washington, Wichita, KS 67211 (316) 264-2637