

Approved: April 2, 2008  
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Arlen Siegfroid at 1:30 P.M. on March 6, 2008, in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Mike Heim, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Jeannie Dillon, Committee Assistant

Conferees:

Gary Brockus, private citizen  
Tim Grunhard, coach Bishop-Miege High School  
Tony Sherman, private citizen  
Joe Windscheffel, student athlete - Smith Center  
Rick Bowden, Kansas State High School Activities Assn.

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Siegfroid opened the meeting by asking for bill introductions. Representative Faber requested a bill that would combine the Livestock Commission with the Department of Agriculture. Moved by Chairman Siegfroid, seconded by Representative Huebert, without objection, the bill was accepted.

Hearing no further requests for bill introductions, the Chair opened the public hearing on **HB 2801- Kansas state high school activities association; state championship football games.**

Gary Brockus, private citizen stood as a proponent to the bill. Mr. Brockus stated that there appears to be no negatives in this bill for the activities association. It acknowledges and helps protect the public's right to use the stadiums, as a result of the activities association's own statement concerning past scheduling difficulties. (Attachment 1)

The Chair introduced Tim Grunhard, football coach at Bishop Miege High School to the Committee. Mr. Grunhard gave brief comments on his coaching experiences with these student athletes. It is his opinion that it would be a memorable experience for students to experience the greatness of what Kansas has to offer and asked the Committee to support **HB 2801.** (Attachment 2)

Tony Sherman, a football fan, came before the committee as a proponent to **HB 2801.** Mr. Sherman told the Committee of his experiences playing in the stadium of the Dallas Cowboys and said that it was a memory that he will never forget and is comparable to very few others in his life. He asked the Activities Association and the universities to make kids' dreams come true instead of providing reasons why this is not possible. (Attachment 3)

Chairman Siegfroid welcomed Joe Windscheffel, a student athlete, to the Committee. Mr. Windscheffel is a senior student at Smith Center, Kansas, and the quarterback of the Smith Center Redmen. Mr. Windscheffel related the experiences he had at the state championship games and stated that he and his teammates always spoke about how special it would be to play at a major venue in the state. He stated that if all games were together at one location, college recruiters could see all the athletes over one weekend, and evaluate them more fairly. He thanked the Committee for giving him the opportunity to relate his point of view on this issue and asked the Committee to consider **HB 2801.** (Attachment 4)

Rick Bowden, Assistant Executive Director and Football administrator, came before the Committee as an opponent to **HB 2801.** Mr. Bowden submitted that this is the current status, so why burden the legislature with a bill that permits the three parties, KU, K-State and KSHSAA, to do what they can already do and have in the past done and may likely at some point in the future do again.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Federal and State Affairs Committee at 1:30 P.M. on March 6, 2008, in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

Mr. Bowden, offered the following reasons why the decision was made to use host sites designed for fan seating of 5,000 to 7,000 patrons.

There are a number of such facilities, several of which are located in communities that based upon the general distribution of schools within any KSHSAA football school classification would be much more centrally located for schools within that classification.

Based on years of attendance figures, it is rare for any one classification of state football championship games to exceed 7,000 in attendance.

The most common observation the staff hear from coaches, fans and administrators who attended state football championships in 5,000 to 7,000 seat venues is that the "atmosphere" for the game was "electric".

In answer to the suggested multiple games in fewer venues Mr. Bowden pointed out the concerns that would apply to that option as being the following:

When multiple games are held at the same venue on the same day, there has been a small number of spectators who will watch a second or third game.

There is always a challenge with dressing rooms and facilities for the teams.

Weather issues and concerns given the time of the year these games are conducted is minimized as much as possible by having single games at each championship.

Games starting at 1:00 pm permit most teams and patrons to travel to and from the game within the same day.

The staffing required to "open up" the facility for high school games is the same as for KU or KSU games whether it be for a crowd of 5,000 or 50,000.

He closing, Mr. Bowden stated that the KSHSAA has not sought this legislation. He requested that the legislature take no action on this bill. (Attachment 5)

The Chair allowed the Committee members to ask questions of the conferees.

Chairman Siegfried closed the hearing on HB 2801 and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting will be March 10, 2008, at 1:30 in room 313-S.

Written testimony only:

Representative Ray Merrick (Attachment 6)

Mike Besler (Attachment 7)

House Federal and State Affairs  
Guest list

Date 3/6/08

Name

Organization

Angela Stollmaier

KASB

Travis Cox

Teacher

Shawn Davis

Student

Joey Dugant

Student

Mark Desetti

KNDA

Sue Peterson

K-STATE

Jammy Winkler

Parent

I am Gary Brockus, citizen from Overland Park. Thank you Honorable Chairperson Siegfried, and fellow committee members for the chance to speak with you in support of House Bill 2801.

The state championship game is one of, if not the most memorable event of a student's high school years. Playing in major stadiums is a standard accepted practice all across our country, as our map shows with those states shaded green. We also had a website on this issue up for about a year, but it quickly became obsolete as information changed and it wasn't kept up.

I've been attending high school state championship football games since the mid 1990's. The state finals for the big class schools were held at KU or KSU most years from 1983-2003. My oldest daughter was a cheerleader at the 1997 championship game at KU, and my son played at the 1998 state championship held at KSU. They both cherish those memories. The week leading up to the game was full of anticipation, which was made even more so by the thought of setting foot and participating on those fields. I have a couple of stadium pictures to share if anyone's interested to see what it looks like from that game. That game had the best atmosphere of any championship I've ever been to, as it went into 3 overtimes, and had a beautiful sunset over KSU's big time stadium to cap it off. The 2006 class 5A final held on Topeka High's home field at Hummer Park, was quite different. There was severe overcrowding, 35 minute lines for bathrooms and concessions, many visitor side fans not able to sit on their own side of the field, and the game was very one-sided. At the 2006 6A state final held at Emporia State, conditions there were similar, with fans young and old sitting on the ground behind the endzone due to lack of seating. I was told by a father there that his family later complained to the activities association. Does this happen every year? No. The smaller venues can work OK, as they did this past year. However, if schools with large followings happen to meet up there are problems and they will occur again. But past fan inconveniences are not the reason we are here. The game is for the kids, it's their once in a lifetime event and lifetime memory.

After I attended the 2006 final and the crowded conditions there at Topeka Hummer Park, I decided to contact the activities association to find out why they were not using KU/KSU anymore. Their written response cited increased scheduling difficulties with the universities, costs, and lack of atmosphere among the reasons.

House Fed and State Committee  
March 6, 2008

Attachment /



The state football championship finals for 5 classes that play regulation 11 man football are now played at five small college or high school stadiums scattered across Kansas. The 8 man football teams have different rules, and have a different size field, and they also currently play there championship games the preceding weekend. Missouri for example, has there 8 man finals at a smaller venue, while the regular 11 man teams, play at the home of the St Louis Rams. We feel that every student athlete, who plays regulation 11 man football, and not just those from the largest schools as was the policy in the past, should have the chance to play in these special stadiums. This one venue, multi-game format is the one many states use. Having 5 games over a Friday and Saturday weekend at KU/KSU allows for reasonable starting and travel times, and has a side benefit. One championship coach said it gives more opportunities for kids to be exposed to recruiters, especially small colleges, and community colleges, who otherwise would not be able to be seen when the championship games were played at the same time on the same day as they are now across Kansas. As I mentioned to Chairman Siegfried several weeks ago, the major colleges know who the very top players are no matter where they could be, and this would not benefit them as much. I also mentioned, though it would be nice, to play these games every year at KU or KSU is not expected. Accommodating the wishes of those who prefer the smaller existing venues should be considered. But to totally ignore the wishes of the majority of students and families, as it is now, is not right. It's going on 5 years since Ku or KSU were used. I'd also like to note states like Nebraska and Wisconsin, who only have one major state university, still manage to play there games at that one location every year.

I wasn't going to touch on costs much, but after talking to some of you, I feel I need to. Since costs were reportedly an issue with using KU/KSU, I was curious how much more it was. When I was reluctantly given the public financial records from the activities association for the games from 2003, which was the last year the games were at KU or KSU, until 2006, they did not show costs as an issue. You have copies of those records. Further explanation from the activities association confirmed that they are full and correct records, and that the costs issues in the e-mail were referring to the 1990's at KSU stadium, though that was not originally stated anywhere. But the same issues apparently exist now with KU with a change in leadership since Bob Frederick retired as KU AD in 2003. Using K-States estimated current costs of 16-18000 per game, to host 5 games would cost roughly 85,000 dollars. There's several ways to cover that and maintain existing

profit margins. One is televising the games. For example, the Nebraska state basketball finals are televised as by their association as a revenue producer. Secondly, get corporate sponsorship. The activities association's current policy is to not enter into those type agreements. But, this is overlooked in the case of the state track meet, according to documentation from the activities association. In order to cover costs at the state track meet for the video timing board, corporate sponsorships have been used. The activities association does a wonderful job with the state track meet, where all classes come together to participate for two days, similar to what we propose here. Another possibility would be to raise ticket prices approximately 3\$. For a one time lifetime event, that's reasonable. With the price of gas what it is, if the games had been at KU this past year, the average family from the ten state final teams would have saved 6\$ over what the average drive to the existing venues were. The activities association may even have more ideas. The point is, costs should not be a show stopper. There's ways to make it happen as other states do.

The activities association leadership agreed in an Oct, 2007 meeting, that most students would choose to play at KU/KSU if given a choice, but they would not do a survey of students or parents when asked to. Supporters decided to do a telephone survey of student participants from championship game teams across the state. 77% of those surveyed chose KU/KSU as the first choice. The 77% survey figure does not even include the entire Great Bend team, a 2006 state finalist, who was recently surveyed by their coaches, and unanimously chose KU/KSU. The point was proven, these stadiums are where the majority of students dream to play.

In closing, as it's written, there appears to be no negatives in this bill for the activities association. It acknowledges and helps protect the public's right to use the stadiums, as a result of the activities association's own statement concerning past scheduling difficulties. If it's no longer an issue, that doesn't mean it couldn't be again someday as leadership changes. As it's written, if anyone would oppose this, one would think it would be the universities, and not the activities association who is getting the most benefit. There is also a side benefit to this bill for students and families. The passage of this bill will provide better future accountability for this majority by making a statement that you heard these students and families' voices. Passage will help lead to good things for Kansas students. After considering all the testimony given today, I respectfully ask for your vote in favor of House bill 2801.

**Rick Bowden** <[rbowden@kshsaa.org](mailto:rbowden@kshsaa.org)> wrote:

There are several potential challenges with the use of either KU or KSU.

The first is scheduling – when the NCAA expanded the number of regular season football games that D I schools may play, this has the potential of putting potentially home games at either or both KSU and KU the same weekend. While collegiate game dates are pretty firm a year in advance, it has been our experience that dates could be altered depending upon the possibility of collegiate games being selected for Telecast. The same situation applies to game times – with TV contracts with the Big 12 providing a number of times games could be telecast.

With both KSU and KU stadiums seating approximately 50,000 people, when we used those facilities, our attendance was in the 5,000 – 7,000 range. Even when we held two games at the same site, same day, the number of people who stayed for both games was very minimal and following the first game, most everyone left. So we still had only a 5,000 – 7,000 size crowd.

Given those attendance figures in stadiums of 50,000 seats, the “atmosphere” did not contain the energy that could be generated by 5,000-7,000 people in a 7,000 seat stadium.

It was and is very challenging for a university to gear down from 50,000 crowds to 5,000-7,000 crowds. When the university opens it’s facility, it is difficult to know what to cut out or cut back on. Because of that, the expenses incurred by the KSHSAA to use a major university facility is much higher than the expenses when an event is scheduled at a smaller college facility.

As mentioned initially, annually the KSHSAA staff reviews each of the sites used for state championship games/events/tournaments for the following year. Your concerns have been noted and will be considered as we review the facilities used for KSHSAA state football championship games.

Rick Bowden

1-4

## **Massachusetts state finals moved to home of New England Patriots stadium.**

Well, if this doesn't get you excited for the upcoming high school football season, then nothing will.

The announcement earlier this month that six of the seven Eastern Mass. Super Bowls will be played at Gillette Stadium can be seen as nothing but great news for area gridiron fans.

Just as the TD BankNorth Garden provides an opportunity for hockey and basketball fans to see games at an affordable rate by hosting the high school championships in March, so it will be for football on Dec. 1 in Foxborough.

Shortly after that, Bob Kraft talked about the idea of hosting the Super Bowls with the Globe's Mike Reiss: "We used to love hosting it at Foxboro Stadium. Kids work so hard during the year that if their prize is to play on an NFL field, that is pretty cool."

Indeed, as if playing to reach the Super Bowl isn't enough incentive, now high schoolers will be aiming to walk the same field as Tom Brady, getting dressed beforehand just a few doors down from the Patriots' locker room. Think that might serve as an extra incentive to some of the Bay State Conference and Hockomock League schools, who could be playing in their own backyard?

It's cool for the fans as well. Those that have been shut out for the first six years of the stadium's existence, now have an affordable way of getting in, while those relegated to the cheap seats can move on up to the front row, sitting at the 50-yard line.

I can't wait. Six games in 15 hours. Yikes! I'm just hoping it's one of those freakishly warm days. Maybe 60 or (gasp!) even 70 degrees. Heck, I'll settle for no rain and 40s. This should be a great day for football fans, on all levels.

Andrew Mahoney, Boston.com.news.

## State Championship Venues

Largest venues used are listed, (some few states also use smaller venues for the different classes, but many have a one site, many games format)

Alabama- University of Alabama- Birmingham, Legion Field- 71,000  
Alaska- Anchorage Stadium- First National Bowl- 4,500  
Arizona- University of Phoenix, Arizona Cardinals (NFL), 63,000  
Arkansas- Little Rock-War Memorial Stadium- 53,000  
California- Home Depot Center- LA Galaxy soccer, 27,000  
Colorado- Invesco Field, Denver Bronco's,(NFL) 77,000  
Connecticut- CCSU, SCSU, Central Connecticut State University, 3,500  
Delaware- Delaware State University, 6,800  
Florida- Citrus Bowl, Orlando, 70,000  
Georgia- Georgia Dome-, Atlanta Falcons (NFL), 71,000  
Hawaii- University of Hawaii, Aloha Stadium, (NFL All-star game) 50,000  
Idaho- Boise State University, 32,000  
Illinois- University of Illinois, 71,000  
Indiana- RCA Dome, Indianapolis Colts (NFL), 58,000  
Iowa-UNI-Dome, University of Northern Iowa, 16,000

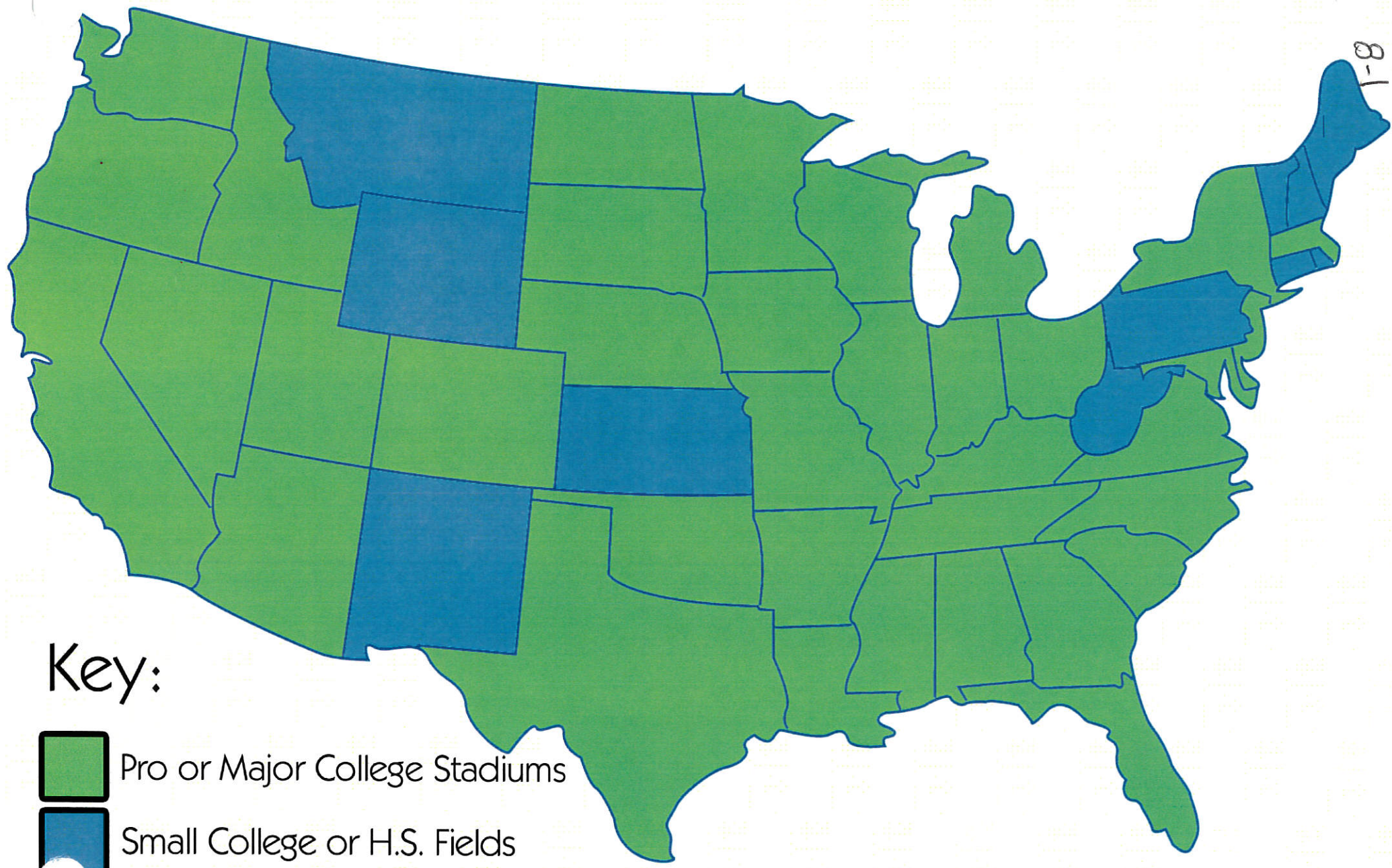
**Kansas-** 6A Washburn University, 7,200(2004-2006, Hummer Park, Topeka High) , 5A Emporia State, 4A Salina High School, 3A Hutchinson High/Juco, 2a- Ft Hays State

Kentucky- University of Louisville, 42,000  
Louisiana- Superdome, New Orleans Saints, (NFL) 73,000  
Maine-High school fields  
Maryland- M & T Bank Stadium, Baltimore Ravens, (NFL) 71,000  
Massachusetts-Gillette Stadium, New England Patriots, (NFL) 69,000  
Michigan- Ford Field, Detroit Lions (NFL), 65,000  
Minnesota- University of Minnesota, Minnesota Vikings (NFL) Metrodome,64,000  
Mississippi- Jackson State University, 65,000  
Montana- High school fields  
Nebraska- University of Nebraska, 85,000  
Nevada- University of Nevada- Las Vegas (UNLV), 45,000  
New Hampshire-high school fields  
New Jersey- Rutgers University, 41,000  
New Mexico- High school fields  
New York- Syracuse University, Carrier Dome, 50,000  
North Carolina- University of North Carolina, and Wake Forest University,60,000  
North Dakota- University of North Dakota, Fargo Dome, 19,000  
Ohio- Fawcett Stadium, (Pro Football Hall of Fame , Canton Stadium) 23,000  
Oklahoma- University of Tulsa, 35,000  
Oregon- Oregon State University, 45,000  
Pennsylvania- Hershey Park Stadium, 16,000  
Rhode Island- Pierce Field soccer park 8,000



South Carolina- University of South Carolina, 80,000  
South Dakota- University of South Dakota, Dakota Dome 10,000  
Tennessee- Middle Tennessee State University, 31,000  
Texas – Texas Stadium Dallas Cowboys, (NFL), and Alamodome,65,000  
Utah- University of Utah, 45,000  
Vermont-high school fields  
Virginia- University of Virginia, 61,000  
Washington- Tacoma Dome, 17,000  
West Virginia- Wheeling Island Stadium- 12,200  
Wisconsin- University of Wisconsin, 80,000  
Wyoming- High school fields

Sources: Wikipedia and National Federation of Activities Associations



Key:

-  Pro or Major College Stadiums
-  Small College or H.S. Fields

8-1

8-1

### Player surveys

I spoke with the parents first, explained to them why I was calling, ..that we were gathering data about state championship football venues via this survey to be used regarding a bill to be proposed in the legislature. They were all very understanding. I then asked their permission to survey their son. None refused. I then got the player on the phone and asked them the one question without an explanation... "If you could play the state championship game in any stadium in Kansas , where would you like to play...Emporia State, Pittsburg State, K-State, Ft Hays State, Washburn ,or KU?" ( I changed the order on each call) When answered, I then asked why they chose that school. I didn't try to sway them, or influence them in any way ..... I asked them, got their answer, and documented why. At the end I told them the reason for all this, and they were very supportive.

Survey totals for all classes-

Calls made- 42,

Totals by school-KSU- 19.5 , KU 12.5, Pitt State-6, Emporia State-1, Washburn – 1  
Salina High-1 Don't care – 1

KU/KSU 77%, Pitt State 15% , Emp State 2% , Salina High 2%, Washburn 2 % Don't care 2%.

### **BV West – State 5A champs....venue- Emporia State**

Seniors were chosen to survey because they are the team leaders, they are the most mature, and I didn't want them to have to worry later on about any repercussions if they found out they went against the BV West administration, as underclassmen may have felt. Almost 50 % of the seniors were surveyed, which is enough of a statistical sample to be relevant and conclusive, especially with the overriding results of almost all choosing KU/KSU. The survey was conducted with methods used by an independent research company.

14 surveys completed (12 chose KU or KSU, 88%)

Totals..KSU- 8 ½, KU- 3 ½, Emporia State- 1, Didn't care - 1

All calls made between 1 and 3 PM on December 9<sup>th</sup>, except where noted.

**Logan Thome**- 897-2190....didn't care, no preference

**Ben Wilinsky**-402-4446....KSU..because it's cooler

**Seth Bodenhausen**-685-3588..KSU..they played summer camp 7 on 7 there, liked it

**Mike Dehart**-681-0138..KU..it's his favorite college team

**Hunter Bakke**-829-9833...Emporia State..liked locker rooms, crowd was good

**Matt Wedel**-851-1701..Ku or KSU..big and special, really cool

**Brandon Abbott**- 825-6997...KU or KSU..chance to play on a big college field

**Chris Cabe**-897-7614...Ku or KSU, ..fields are nice, likes the stadiums

**Marcus Thurman**-851-3291..KSU..summer 7 on 7 there was really cool

**Dan Boan**-681-3039..KSU ..played summer 7on7, history of going to games there to watch KSU



**Ryan Swartz**-681-3467..KU, only chance to ever play there, mom said always a jhawk  
**Carson Curry**- 814-0691..KSU..only chance to ever play a game there. Mr. Curry said it was a common well known theme the team was disappointed the championship game was not at a major conference stadium. He said the kids were missing out. He said maybe coach Wright or Ms Roach (athletic director) would get behind this. Mr. Curry said there was no need to call the rest of the team, that it was common knowledge this is what the rest of them would say too.

**Mike Besler**-897-3542 called 12-18-07, KSU-fun to play in a big stadium like college players do, only chance to do that. Emporia State was fun, and it was nice to have the stands full, but he would rather have had the chance to play at KSU, and feels like he missed out. (Mrs. Besler, head of the booster club, was very supportive)

**Jacob Julian**- called 12-18-07. 685-9344, KSU- played 7 on 7 there, really had a nice feel to it.

Josh Copp- not listed

Todd Harmon- not home, 897-5264

Aaron Ashley- not home, not sure of number-402-7627,766-3068

Mark Rogers – not home 402-8789

Jordan May-telephone not listed

Mike Dawar-499-0548,499-0552 no answer

Jeremy Reid-814-9290 no answer

Kris Singleton, not listed

Jordan Chapman-not sure of number-851-5227, 897-2872 didn't try to call yet

Joey Arkeilpane-not listed

JD Holland- not sure of number-851-1470, 681-1755, 402-8658,681-9142 didn't try yet

Prab Girn- not listed

Blake Stanwood- not listed

Nick Fleer- not listed

Adam Steele- not listed

Aneaus Rrapaj- not listed

**Louisburg Wildcats Class 4A runnerups, game played at Salina High School.  
Called on Dec 16**

58 members on team

20 seniors

4 not listed in telephone directory

16 possible calls to make

10 calls made

totals so far – KSU -3, KU -2 , Pitt State-4, Salina High- 1

Jared Drew 12-18-07. 913-837-5446 KSU, like the field and the stands there, been to camp there, and watched games there on TV. He also mentioned Colorado had their games at Invesco Field (home of the Denver Broncos) and he thinks that's cool.

Kyle Holt.....tel number not listed

Marcus Rubbo...913-837-3614.... K-State, he went to football camps there, liked the KSU stadium atmosphere, and said he thought the rest of the team would feel the same way.

Colby Kueser....913-377-2051....Pitt State-good atmosphere. Adult sister said parents not happy with Salina Stadium, not suitable for a state event.  
Cody Vail.....913-837-4233.....Pitt State- good atmosphere, been there before for PSU games. Spoke with father (Dennis), voluntarily said he was not impressed with Salina High for a state championship site.  
Todd Richardson....913-837-1414, 913-837-2536  
Lucas Bindi....913-837-3249 no answer twice  
Derrick Rowan....tel number not listed  
Jason Spradling...913- 837-4464, 12-18-07, (parents not home), Pitt State, he's been there and thinks it would be perfect for a game like this. Not too big like KU or KSU.  
George Bazin...913-837-5610 , he liked Salina High, likes KU too, but couldn't fill it up, so Salina's better.  
Duncan Robinson...913-837-4218, KU, only chance to play there, would fit all our fans  
Michael Stacks...837-4237, Pitt State, good atmosphere, wouldn't look like no fans there if it was held at KU or something.  
Jake Darrington...837-2928 no answer twice  
Beau Weissend....837-5955 no answer twice  
Ryan Mendon....837-4269, KU-cooler, bigger atmosphere, more important. Mother said it would be great to have it there, much better than Salina.  
Jacob Jenkins...837-2930 na, 837-2512 na  
Zach Crew....tel number not listed  
Wade Messier...tel number not listed  
Kyle Scheppers...tel number not listed  
Matt Lemke...837-5437, K-State, neat atmosphere. why neat?- big college stadium.

**Silver Lake Eagles Class 3A state runnerups, game played at Hutchinson JuCo  
Called on Dec 16**

53 members on team  
13 seniors  
3 not listed in telephone directory  
10 calls to make to contact seniors  
6 calls made  
totals so far= KU-3, KSU-3

Marshall Wetta...785-582-5345, no answer twice  
Jordan Lambert....582-4065, KU. Ku fan, would be a fun experience, like the feel of a wrap around stadium, it's windier and colder in an open stadium, the wrap around would protect the players more.  
Justin Backman...582-4803, KU. Grew up a KU fan , and always wanted the chance to play in it.  
Josh Baden.....582-4868, not called  
Ethan Cray.....582-0173, K-State because it's bigger  
Elliott Cray.....582-0173, K-State, bigger and nicer (freshman brother)  
Colby Killinger....tel number not listed



Eddie Avila...tel number not listed  
Dylan Gragert....582-4093, no answer twice  
Tobi Cowdin..tel number not listed  
Garrett Cummings...tel number not listed  
Jason Mellies....582-4522, K-State-fan of K-State since he was little, Would be cool to play there. 12-16-2007  
Andy Knudsen...582-4316, 582-4466, KU. Has been to games there, cool atmosphere to be around, it's his favorite team. After he told me that, I explained to him what we were trying to get done, his voice got excited and he said that would be awesome, he and his buddies have talked in the past about how cool it would be to play there.  
Logan Pegram...582-5399, no answer twice

**Smith Center Redmen -Class 1A-2A State Champs. Game played at Ft Hays State Univ.**

**Called on 12-16-07**

48 members on team  
12 seniors  
4 not listed in telephone directory  
8 possible calls to make  
6 calls made  
totals so far = 4 KSU, 1 KU, 1 Pitt State

Jared Mocaby...tel number not listed  
Tate Arnold....tel number not listed  
Braden Wilson....785-282-6936, Pitt State- heard it's nice, could fill it up more, couldn't fill up KU or KSU.  
Joe Windscheffel.. 282-6298, KU or KSU. It would feel like it was a more important event, a bigger deal. He volunteered that he would like to see it done like Nebraska, where they have all he games at one location, he's watched the Nebraska games on TV and thinks that's really cool. I then told him that's what we are trying to get done. **He said he would speak at the capital if needed.** He was the qb of the team.  
Jared Hayes...282-6935...KU or KSU, better atmosphere, chance to play on a D1 field that he wouldn't otherwise get to.  
Drew Joy....282-6407, KSU..bigger, like the atmosphere, more people could come watch.  
Kerby Rice...tel number not listed  
Dustin Baetz....785-389-6601, K-State- bigger , nicer, been there before and seen it.  
Matt Seeman...282-3821, no answer twice  
Kirk Palmer.... 785-476-2604, K State-bigger stadium, would be a cool atmosphere.  
Brayton Gillen...282-6917, not home, shopping  
Grady Godsey.... tel number not listed

**Olathe South Falcons 6A runnerups...game played at Washburn University**  
23 seniors – 6 contacted.

3 KU  
1 KSU  
1 PSU  
1 Washburn

Alex Nixon

Wesley Howlett 782-0362. 12-19-07, KSU- nicest stadium, been to games there.

Danny White

Anthony Sanchez

Mike Keese

Justin Thomson 768-7823. 12-20-07. KU- always been a KU fan, and dreamed of playing there. Mom said her and others have always wondered why they didn't play at KU, because kids would love it. She said the games in Iowa were at the UNI-dome, and it was so nice.

James Bailey

Tom Colwell

Tegan Meadors

Paul Icenogle

Lorgens Estabine

Nathan Groat

Aaron Kolich

Jake Rasmussen

Chris Raab 829-0249. Chris not home, but she said she could guarantee he would say KU.

Kyle Richardson

Michael Knutsen 782-6845, 12-19-07. KU- Cause he's a huge KU fan.

Brennt Courtney

Noah Ramirez

Harris Mgbike 782-9060. 12-19-07. Pitt State- born and raised there and always liked it.

Kyson Ginavin

Micah Smith

Spencer Deines

Justin Munden 526-0839, 12-19-07 Washburn. Liked crowd feel and shape of stadium. Voluntarily said KU second choice. (parent not home, didn't talk to them)

Dates in red were surveyed on 12-17-07

KANSAS • STATE • HIGH • SCHOOL  
**ACTIVITIES**  
ASSOCIATION, INC.



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GARY P. MUSSELMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Assistant Executive Directors: Cheryl Gleason, Rick Bowden, David Cherry, Francine Martin, Reggie Romine; Karen Ruder, Personnel & Information Services  
Member of the National Federation of State High School Associations

2-16-07

Mr. Brockus:

Here are the financial records on  
all state football championship  
games for the period of 2003-06,  
as requested.

Gary Musselman

## FINANCIAL RESULTS OF STATE FOOTBALL PLAY-OFFS - 2003

	8-Man Div I & II Russell	2-1A Fort Hays State Univ.	3A Emporia State Univ.	4A Topeka-Hummer Spts. Complex	5A, 6A Lawrence U. of Kansas	Totals
<b>RECEIPTS</b>						
Ticket Sales	12,198.00	8,393.00	14,090.00	33,560.00	45,458.00	113,699.00
Program Sales	870.00	825.00	1,236.00	2,505.00	2,652.00	8,088.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>13,068.00</b>	<b>9,218.00</b>	<b>15,326.00</b>	<b>36,065.00</b>	<b>48,110.00</b>	<b>121,787.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Officials' Expenses	1,028.06	697.11	512.83	656.58	1,114.49	4,009.07
Administrative Expenses	58.55	87.15	10.00	-	-	155.70
Awards	610.00	360.00	360.00	360.00	720.00	2,410.00
Sales Tax	832.04	546.31	975.82	2,422.13	3,273.09	8,049.39
Liability Insurance	342.64	236.87	396.79	939.18	1,270.96	3,185.44
Commission on Program Sales	162.92	155.22	231.46	467.36	494.32	1,511.28
General Tournament Expenses	2,284.27	1,579.12	2,638.58	6,261.23	8,473.07	21,236.27
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,318.48</b>	<b>3,661.78</b>	<b>5,124.48</b>	<b>11,106.48</b>	<b>15,345.93</b>	<b>40,557.15</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$7,749.52</b>	<b>\$5,556.22</b>	<b>\$10,201.52</b>	<b>\$24,958.52</b>	<b>\$32,764.07</b>	<b>\$81,229.85</b>

**FINANCIAL RESULTS OF STATE  
FOOTBALL PLAY-OFFS - 2004**

	<b>8-Man Div I &amp; II Russell</b>	<b>2-1A Fort Hays State Univ</b>	<b>3A Goddard</b>	<b>4A Pittsburg State Univ</b>	<b>5A Topeka Hummer Park</b>	<b>6A Emporia State Univ</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Receipts</b>							
Ticket Sales	12,080.00	14,530.00	13,927.00	15,835.00	17,439.00	17,610.00	91,421.00
Program Sales	780.00	1,263.00	1,128.00	831.00	1,002.00	1,197.00	6,201.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>12,860.00</b>	<b>15,793.00</b>	<b>15,055.00</b>	<b>16,666.00</b>	<b>18,441.00</b>	<b>18,807.00</b>	<b>97,622.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Officials' Expenses	1,076.84	785.96	536.75	685.75	747.68	606.50	4,439.48
Administrative Expenses	52.13	10.19	-	5.00	-	-	67.32
Awards	630.00	430.00	430.00	430.00	430.00	430.00	2,780.00
Sales Tax	818.80	935.99	892.25	1,061.13	1,238.58	1,197.45	6,144.20
Liability Insurance	339.33	410.07	393.05	444.80	488.03	494.66	2,569.94
Commission on Program Sales	146.07	237.63	212.23	155.62	186.94	224.16	1,162.65
General Tournament Expenses	2,262.17	2,733.77	2,620.32	2,965.56	4,103.54	3,297.75	17,983.11
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,325.34</b>	<b>5,543.61</b>	<b>5,084.60</b>	<b>5,747.86</b>	<b>7,194.77</b>	<b>6,250.52</b>	<b>35,146.70</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$7,534.66</b>	<b>\$10,249.39</b>	<b>\$9,970.40</b>	<b>\$10,918.14</b>	<b>\$11,246.23</b>	<b>\$12,556.48</b>	<b>62,475.30</b>

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## FINANCIAL RESULTS OF STATE FOOTBALL PLAY-OFFS - 2005

Receipts	8-Man Div I & II Russell	2-1A Fort Hays State Univ	3A Topeka Hummer Park	4A Salina	5A Emporia State Univ	6A Topeka Hummer Park	Totals
Ticket Sales	15,018.00	12,155.00	16,372.00	20,667.00	23,190.00	22,901.00	110,303.00
Program Sales	1,287.00	1,062.00	2,862.00	1,770.00	1,899.00	-	8,880.00
Note: 3A & 6A program sales listed under 3A							
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>16,305.00</b>	<b>13,217.00</b>	<b>19,234.00</b>	<b>22,437.00</b>	<b>25,089.00</b>	<b>22,901.00</b>	<b>119,183.00</b>
Expenses							
Officials' Expenses	891.85	891.85	891.85	891.85	891.85	891.85	5,351.10
Tournament Host Share	2,784.33	2,270.90	3,047.37	3,861.19	4,342.70	4,262.63	20,569.12
Administrative Expenses	90.93	90.93	90.93	90.93	90.93	90.93	545.58
Awards	2,097.99	2,098.00	2,098.00	2,098.00	2,098.00	2,098.00	12,587.99
Sales Tax	1,190.26	870.45	1,333.59	1,477.64	1,597.43	1,587.83	8,057.20
Liability Insurance	450.54	364.85	491.16	620.01	695.70	687.03	3,309.09
Host Program Sales Share	238.61	198.41	532.71	330.69	355.62	-	1,856.04
General Tournament Expenses	146.56	146.56	146.56	1,116.56	146.56	146.56	1,849.36
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,891.07</b>	<b>6,931.75</b>	<b>8,632.17</b>	<b>10,486.87</b>	<b>10,218.79</b>	<b>9,764.83</b>	<b>53,925.48</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 8,413.93</b>	<b>\$ 6,285.25</b>	<b>\$ 10,601.83</b>	<b>\$ 11,950.13</b>	<b>\$ 14,870.21</b>	<b>\$ 13,136.17</b>	<b>65,257.52</b>

11-1

## FINANCIAL RESULTS OF STATE FOOTBALL PLAY-OFFS - 2006

81-1

	8-Man Div I & II Newton	2-1A Fort Hays State Univ	3A Salina	4A Hutchinson Comm College	5A Topeka Hummer Park	6A Emporia State University	Totals
<b>Receipts</b>							
Ticket Sales	18,137.00	11,098.00	15,220.00	29,650.00	28,688.00	33,601.00	136,394.00
Program Sales	1,119.00	1,020.00	1,098.00	1,929.00	2,025.00	1,872.00	9,063.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>19,256.00</b>	<b>12,118.00</b>	<b>16,318.00</b>	<b>31,579.00</b>	<b>30,713.00</b>	<b>35,473.00</b>	<b>145,457.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>							
Officials' Expenses	1,153.04	551.30	553.92	1,023.72	600.13	772.04	4,654.15
Tournament Host Share	3,380.61	2,073.42	3,048.67	5,539.47	5,339.78	5,730.52	25,112.47
Administrative Expenses	22.26	22.26	22.26	22.26	22.27	22.27	133.58
Awards	631.04	430.00	430.00	430.00	430.00	430.00	2,781.04
Sales Tax	1,310.06	798.05	1,074.65	2,079.70	2,129.47	2,067.57	9,459.50
Liability Insurance	544.11	332.94	456.60	889.50	860.64	1,008.03	4,091.82
Host Program Sales Share	208.57	190.57	532.71	360.39	376.92	350.56	2,019.72
General Tournament Expenses	186.73	186.73	186.73	186.73	186.73	186.73	1,120.38
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>7,436.42</b>	<b>4,585.27</b>	<b>6,305.54</b>	<b>10,531.77</b>	<b>9,945.94</b>	<b>10,567.72</b>	<b>49,372.66</b>
Balance	\$ 11,819.58	\$ 7,532.73	\$ 10,012.46	\$ 21,047.23	\$ 20,767.06	\$ 24,905.28	96,084.34

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February 29, 2008

The Honorable Arlen Siegfried, Chairperson  
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
Statehouse, Room 161-W  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Siegfried:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2801 by Representatives Kinzer and Merrick

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2801 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2801 would permit the Kansas State High School Activities Association to use the University of Kansas Memorial Stadium and the Kansas State University stadium and Wagner Field for state championship high school football games.

Kansas State University Athletic Operations states that HB 2801 would cost approximately \$16,000 to \$18,000 per game. The University of Kansas states that it would be difficult to estimate the cost without more specific information on the number of games, number of days, and expected attendance. Both universities state that the actual costs would be billed to the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

Sincerely,



Duane A. Goossen  
Director of the Budget

cc: Cindy Bontrager, K-State  
Theresa Gordzica, University of Kansas

Hearing for H.S. Football Bill 3/6/2008  
Tim Grunhard  
Football Coach Bishop Miege High School

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak this afternoon. My name is Tim Grunhard, and I am the football coach at Bishop Miege High School in Roeland Park, Kansas. I will try to be brief. Sports, I believe, represent a microcosm of life. We all face third down situations, the 3 and 2 count in the 9<sup>th</sup> inning with the bags loaded.....and we have to respond. We have to step up to the plate of LIFE and take a swing! That is why high school athletic programs are so important. Many of you played sports at the high school level and know what I mean.

When I was in high school in Illinois, the mantra was "Let's go down-state", which meant, let's give ourselves a chance to play at the University of Illinois. As a former coach in the state of Missouri (St. Pius X in North Kansas City, a small Division II High School), our rallying cry was "Let's make the Dome our home!" This was referring to the A.E. Edwards Dome in St. Louis where all Missouri State Football Championship games are played.

Now as a coach in Kansas, I would love for our kids to have the opportunity to play at one of our state-of-the-art University facilities and to be able to experience the greatness of what Kansas has to offer. Let them play and let them have pride in our state and their accomplishments. This would be a wonderful rally cry to get the kids through the brutal summer workouts and the two-a-days in the Kansas heat.

From the Flint Hills to the Republican River, from Wyandotte to Wallace Counties, let each school and each class have the same goal: to represent their school at a Championship site as one State!

House Fed and State Committee  
March 6, 2008

Attachment 2

My name is Tony Sherman, from Shawnee, KS. Honorable Chairperson Siegfried and committee members, as a Kansas high school football fan and future parent, I thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of House Bill 2801.

When I was in high school, I was fortunate enough to play a class 5A playoff game in Texas Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys. It is a day and memory I will never forget, and is comparable to very few others in my life. I also recently heard radio commercials regarding a push by the State of Kansas to become the #1 ranked state in the nation for raising a family. This bill is just a small opportunity to show the commitment this state has to reaching this outstanding goal. For the rest of my testimony, I would like to address issues any opponents to this bill may raise.

You may hear opponents say this bill is unnecessary. The Activities Association e-mail from January 2007 speaks of past scheduling conflicts and issues. We feel this bill will help in working out those type issues should they arise. Leadership at the universities and the Activities Association changes over time. Most importantly, this bill helps protect the public's interests regardless of the views of whoever is in charge.

You may hear opponents say if a bill of this nature is passed for football, every sport will desire the same treatment. First, it's important to note the Activities Association already uses Bramlage Coliseum on the Kansas State University campus for the class 2A state basketball tournament. Second, we know of no other sports in which a previous precedent of almost 20 years has been set in the state of Kansas for using these facilities, and then encountering difficulties. Third, it is a commonly accepted practice in the United States to utilize either professional or major college football venues for state high school championship games, as our map indicates. Lastly, though we think unlikely, if other sports want to pursue similar legislation, that is their privilege. The question to ask them is how would that hurt the Activities Association? I would ask them what sports they believe have similar circumstances as this one. Each issue should be evaluated and decided on based on its own merit.

You may hear opponents say people are not complaining about the existing venues. But the Activities Association has stated there were no more complaints when the games were at KU/KSU than there are now. The championship games are usually a one time event for families, and most



don't know the history of games being played at KU/KSU for almost 20 years, or what other states are doing for their student-athletes.

You may hear opponents say the atmosphere can suffer in a venue too large for the event. By creating a scenario in which all classes would be playing their championship football games at the same location over a 2-day period, a positive atmosphere will be impossible to avoid. The venue, the students, and the families generate atmosphere. I played in Texas stadium and a partially filled stadium did not have a negative effect on the atmosphere. It was an unforgettable experience and the atmosphere was remarkable.

You may hear opponents say coaches would not want to play a championship game the day after Thanksgiving. In a 2 day scenario, 2 games could be played Friday and the other 3 on Saturday, the day on which these games are currently held. Scott Wright, the head coach of this past year's class 5A state champion team, stated his team actually practiced on Thanksgiving day, with the families in full support. They understood this was a huge 1 time event to prepare for. He has allowed us to use his name freely in support of playing in these stadiums.

You may hear opponents say the starting times of playing 5 games over 2 days do not make it convenient for teams. For almost 20 years, when the large class 5A and 6A games were played at KU/KSU, the times of 11am and 2:30pm were used. That should still be acceptable. Those times could easily be used on Friday, then duplicated on Saturday with the addition of a 6pm evening game. This is precisely how many states currently handle the scheduling of their games. This is a much better scenario for fans and athletes than the times used at the all class state track meet in Wichita. The state track meet is a 2 day event with races ranging from as early as 8:30am to 9pm.

In closing, we ask that the Activities Association and the universities begin to look at trying to make these kids dreams come true, instead of providing reasons not to. To play what is for many their last organized football game of their life in a major facility many of them admire is an opportunity I would never want to see missed by my children. I respectfully ask for your vote in support of House Bill 2801.

I am Joe Windscheffel, a senior student at Smith Center , Kansas , and the quarterback for the Smith Center Redmen. Honorable Chairperson Siegfried, and honorable committee members, as a Kansas high school student and football player, and on behalf of many of my peers, thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of this bill. I will be speaking on behalf of all small town football players across the state, for the opportunity to make their high school championship games more memorable.

As a four time state champion in class 2A-1A football, I have a passionate stance on this issue. I played on Lewis Field at Fort Hays State in Hays, Kansas in the championship game all four years of my high school career. It was a great experience, but only because of our faithful fans from Smith Center . Hays is only 90 miles from Smith Center, and our fans completely filled our side of the stadium my sophomore, junior, and senior seasons, and came extremely close my freshman year. I truly believe our fans would have no problem driving a farther distance from our hometown to see us compete for a State Championship.

Playing in Hays, on the campus of Fort Hays never gave us a special feeling. We never had the opportunity to experience an overnight trip and enjoy the camaraderie with our teammates and coaches, and relish an unforgettable weekend after a season of hard work together. We played Pittsburg/St.Marys Colgan my freshman, sophomore, and senior seasons, and they never had a large crowd at all. I can tell you from speaking to their fans and players, that they did not enjoy the long trip from Pittsburg to Hays. It was more of a home game for us, while it was a road game for them.

During my four years of state championship games, there were a couple of families who were split on whether to watch their relative from Smith Center, or travel to

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March 6, 2008

Attachment

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a different location to watch another family member play in a state championship. The grandfather of our running back, Colt Rogers, had to miss our state championship game to watch his other grandson win a state championship for Hutchinson at a different location. A state championship game is a huge weekend in a young man's life, and I think it is a shame that a grandfather would have to choose grandson over grandson, when they could be played together, on one weekend. This is a problem that could be eliminated if you would support this bill.

My teammates and I had always spoken about how special it would be to play at a major venue in the state. Every year, PBS broadcasts the Nebraska State Championship games, and we always end up watching them. They play their games at Memorial Stadium, at the University of Nebraska . It is a huge weekend that unifies their entire state, as cheerleaders, bands, and fans from all over the state come together for a weekend of the state's best football. The system we have in Kansas today divides our state on an important weekend. I have to believe that a television station would cover all the games for Kansas as well. This is very important for our community which has a large elderly population, many who are homebound but continue to follow the youth of the community, via the local television and radio stations.

Being a college football prospect this past season, I know for a fact that college recruiters question the ability of small town kids, simply because of their competition level. I am biased about this, but I do not believe that is fair. If all the games were together, recruiters could see all the kids, over one weekend, and evaluate them all more fairly. This would help small town players get equal exposure with some of the larger schools.

As I was speaking with my head coach, and also 2007 National High School Coach of the Year, Roger Barta, about this issue, he brought up a story from 1986, when Smith Center won a state championship in Manhattan . He said they drove down on Friday night, and stayed in the Holiday Inn. As they walked in the building, one of his star players, who had never been to a city the size of Manhattan , looked around, and said, "Coach, you could fit a lot of hay bales into this building." That player will obviously never forget the time he went all the way to Manhattan to play for a state championship. Not all rural kids are fortunate enough to see the world outside of their farms, and if nothing else, this would be a special opportunity for them.

If we could get all the games moved to a single location, I believe there would be more people that would come out to watch a great weekend of high school football, regardless of who is playing. This, along with all the other teams competing, would create huge crowds. This is just another reason that would make it a more memorable experience.

Being a part of four consecutive state championship teams, often times I heard people say we would win simply because we are from Smith Center . This comment always frustrated me. State championships do not just happen; they take an extreme amount of hard work. My teammates and I worked hard year-round, just to give our bodies a chance to win a championship. It is not an easy process, and for those who have paid the price, I believe they deserve a very special weekend. It is a lifetime experience, which will never be forgotten, and should be as special for the players as possible.

For selfish reasons, I wish this Bill could have been passed years ago, so I could have experienced such a special weekend, but that is the past. I am speaking for future

small-town athletes and my younger teammates so that maybe they could have a chance to experience it. I believe it would be a remarkable opportunity for any football player, and remember, this is what all high school players dream about.

I would like to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to give my point of view on this issue. I would also like to thank you for listening to me, and I hope that this bill will be passed, and put into action as soon as possible. On behalf of all football players across the state, but especially small town players across the state, I ask for your support of this bill.

Thank You,

Joe Windscheffel

## House Bill 2801

Submitted by  
Rick Bowden

Assistant Executive Director & Football Administrator  
Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA)

Mr. Gary Musselman, KSHSAA Executive Director wanted me to offer his apologies for the fact that he was not present in person to testify on H 2801. This is a very busy week for the administrative staff at the KSHSAA - each day one of our administrators will be physically present at one of the KSHSAA state basketball tournament sites. Since I was to be at Manhattan today, I could most easily make this hearing. Our basketball administrator is here in town for the 5A tournament today but because she is also the basketball administrator her availability to respond quickly to issues at any of the six sites was a priority.

In my oral comments I will be brief and would submit this more detailed explanation of the KSHSAA position on H 2801.

Since the KSHSAA is identified as an opponent to this legislation, I need to provide some clarification as to why we would take this position.

It may seem difficult to be in opposition to a piece of legislation that on the surface appears only to be permissive in application. The bill was introduced and crafted with the intent to have KU and KSU make their football stadiums available to the KSHSAA for use for KSHSAA state football championship games. It is permissive in the sense that KU and KSU would make their football stadium available to the KSHSAA. I would respectfully submit to this committee that this is the current status - so why burden the legislature with a bill that permits the three parties (KU, KSU and KSHSAA) to do what we can already do and have in the past done and may likely at some point in the future do again?

The KSHSAA has in the past conducted state football championship games at both KSU and KU football stadiums. On those occasions when those venues were used as a site for a KSHSAA football championship game, we found the administrative staff of both KU and KSU very willing to work with us in setting up the venue and assisting us in the management of the event. Should the KSHSAA in the future elect to make any overture to KSU or KU about the possibility of having one or more state games at either of those venues, I'm sure the administration and staff at both universities would again be willing to work with us in an effort to host games at those sites.

In the last few years, the KSHSAA member schools, (including administrators, coaches, spectators) have not indicated to staff that the stadiums we have been using were not acceptable as state football championship venues. When concerns were voiced about the length of lines at concessions, or lines for the restrooms or for the general admission gates, KSHSAA staff responded to those concerns and requested or made changes.

Most recently we have selected as host sites stadiums designed for fan seating of from 5,000 to 7,000. There are a number of such facilities available across the state and the decision to use those size stadiums are based upon the following reasons:

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Attachment 5



- 1) There are a number of such facilities, several of which are located in communities that based upon the general distribution of schools within any KSHSAA football school classification would be much more "centrally located" for schools within that classification. By using sites that are more centrally located, schools located in one particular geographical area of the state who are participating in the state championship game do not face every year the challenges of travel, distance and expense that other schools within the same classification may not confront.
- 2) Based on many years of historical attendance figures, it is rare for any one classification of state football championship games to exceed 7,000 in attendance. Thus, stadiums in the 5,000 to 7,000 seating capacity range can accommodate almost any classification of a state championship game.
- 3) The one most common observation and reaction we as staff hear from coaches, fans and school administrators who have attended state football (or for that matter any other state event) held in those 5,000 to 7,000 seat venues which are filled to near capacity or are at capacity is that the "atmosphere" for the game was "electric". A full or near full stadium filled with rabid fans has a totally different feel to it than a 50,000 seat stadium filled with the same size of crowd. The KSHSAA staff seeks to provide quality venues for all KSHSAA events. I don't believe football championships held at Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Washburn University, Pittsburg State University, Salina Stadium or Hutchinson Community College failed to provide coaches, athletes or spectators a quality venue for their state championship game.

It has also been suggested that multiple games should be held at fewer venues. I'd like to point out a few concerns/factors that would apply to that option.

- 4) When multiple games are held at the same venue on the same day, (which has been done in the past) there has been a very small number of spectators who will stay over and watch a second or third game their team is not participating in - the crowd turns over with each game.
- 5) Again with multiple games being held at the same venue on the same day, there is always a challenge with dressing rooms and facilities for the teams. This becomes especially problematic when the university team locker room facility is not available - which is quite often the case. This forces teams to dress in either unsecured rooms (where restroom facilities are not available) or to dress at one location, bus to the game site and wait until a previous team has changed, showered and departed the room - often leaving a rather "messy" room for another team that is being placed into that facility.
- 6) KSHSAA state football championship games in 11-man are now held on the Saturday of Thanksgiving week. The last several years, single games were held at the 11-man game sites and two games were held the week before at the 8-man game sites (this is due primarily to the need to "convert" an 11-man size field to 8-man size). Weather issues and concerns given the time of the year these games are conducted is minimized as much as possible by having single games at each 11-man state championship. On average a high school game will take about 2 ½ hours to play. Given warm-up time and time to allow teams and fans to "decompress" after a game and awards being given, one can realistically plan on 4 hours for a game from warm-up to getting people off the field. Time could be compressed if you held multiple games on the same field in a day, but you'd have to have teams warm-up at a site that was not the game field and you'd have

to move through the "awards" post-game part of the event so quickly that people would resent being hurried off the field so that the next game could begin.

- 7) Games starting at 1:00 pm permit most teams and patrons to travel to and from game sites within the day of the game. This minimizes expenses to the schools and patrons for overnight lodging. Holding multiple games at the same venue (whether it is two or three games) means that in many cases, overnight lodging and meal expenses for teams playing the first game have to be incurred. And if three games are to be played on the same day, this will either mean teams and or team supporters will have to stay overnight or make a very late night trip at a time in the year when weather has the potential of creating serious travel concerns. And this assumes that adverse weather conditions for the game itself are not a factor in delaying the game.
- 8) Again based on past experience with stadiums of the size of KU or KSU, the staffing required to "open up" the facility for the administration of KU or KSU is very much the same as it would be whether the anticipated crowd is 5,000 or 50,000. There is just so much that can't be closed off or shut down and automatically turned off. This often leads to overhead and costs that are never recovered. Ultimately this means that the facility will either absorb those costs or the KSHSAA and the member schools have to come up with financial resources to make the venue financially viable. The KSHSAA has a long standing policy of being very cost conscious as it applies to ticket pricing for any of the KSHSAA events. Ticket prices have not changed for nine (9) years. Ticket prices at KSHSAA events are very comparable to regular season games our member schools and their patrons are use to. The KSHSAA Executive Board and the staff don't want to make the state game so expensive that mothers and fathers can't financially take their family to the games. The budget of the KSHSAA has to rely heavily on "revenue" producing events, such as state football, in order to cover the non-revenue activities the KSHSAA member schools provide to students. Activities such as music, debate, speech, forensics, etc. do not have a "ticket" revenue stream but they are just as important in providing a well rounded activities program as are the athletic activities. Again those venues of 5,000 to 7,000 seem from a financial posture to be the ones which are the most cost effective from both the revenue and expense side.
- 9) Since the KSHSAA 11-man state football championships are held the Saturday of Thanksgiving week, KSHSAA member schools are already on a "short week" schedule. Many of the schools either do not hold classes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving or release students early on Wednesday to begin their Holiday travels/plans. For those schools participating in the state football championships, providing information to students and patrons re: the state football game becomes a real challenge. In addition, it has been my experience that coaches prefer to not have their practice schedule/routines altered during the course of the season. This is particularly true of coaches preparing teams for the state championship game. Any practice scheduled on a holiday always present challenges to coaches, players and their families. Given the current schedule (with the state championship games played on a Saturday) coaches have Fridays to put into place the final preparations for a game on Saturday. Some proponents of this legislation have proposed the idea that games could be played at the same stadium but schedule them over a Friday and Saturday. For those teams that may be playing a state championship on Friday, this would require them to have full practices

on Thursday (Thanksgiving Day). Without a doubt some family plans would have to be altered accordingly.

In response to those that may ask of the KSHSAA "Why oppose this bill, it is only permissive?" I think you have to look beyond the bill as it would be explained by supporters and look at the wording in the bill. We feel that the use of the word "shall" within the bill becomes extremely problematic - what if the KSHSAA does want to have a state football championship game at KSU or KU stadium and KU or KSU is preparing for a conference championship game OR during the last week of the Big 12 season, TV asks either KSU or KU to move their last regular season game to that Saturday (or Friday if we ever wanted to have multiple games at a site) with the offer of \$1 million to do so. Since the legislation requires that the universities "shall" make the facility available, does that mean they can't accept the financial package to move their game because we have the stadium scheduled on that weekend? While the author's may not acknowledge this situation, I believe it is one that has the potential of occurring. So the university is faced with the no win solution of missing out on a substantial payment to move their game for a few thousand dollars that would come to them for hosting the KSHSAA event? Or they could accept the offer and asks the KSHSAA to move our game to a Thursday or a Sunday or to kick off our game at 6:00 am or 10:00 pm? So then the schools and patrons of the high school game are placed in a difficult no-win situation. And has KSU or KU complied with the law (if the bill becomes law) - when they "shall" make their facilities available to the KSHSAA? Or will they be in non-compliance with law because the KSHSAA had to move it's game?

The KSHSAA has NOT sought this legislation. When we became aware of the fact that such legislation might be introduced, Mr. Musselman wrote the Athletic Directors of both KU and KSU, the President of KSU and the Chancellor of KU and the Executive Director of the State Board of Regents informing them this was not legislation supported by or initiated at the request of the KSHSAA or any of the member schools .

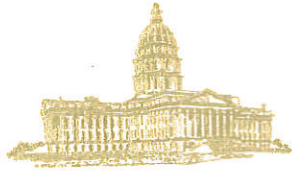
At the direction of the KSHSAA Executive Board, the KSHSAA staff has prepared a topic to present during the next annual meeting of the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (KIAAA) which will provide the members of the KIAAA a forum to discuss and provide feedback on the topic of football championship venues.

For the reasons mentioned we would request that the legislature take no action on this bill. It only permits what is currently the routine operational procedure between the KSHSAA and the University of Kansas and Kansas State University with respect to use of their football stadiums for KSHSAA football championship games.

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RAY MERRICK  
MAJORITY LEADER

Testimony before the House Federal and State Affairs Committee  
Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>  
HB 2801

Thank you for allowing me to submit this written testimony today. I am writing as a proponent on HB 2801.

Why not give our young people an opportunity they will remember for a lifetime? I had the pleasure of watching my boys play in 3 state championship games, two at KU and one at KSU. To this day, those games have tremendous meaning for them.

Football already has 20 years of precedence (1983-2003) of using a KU/KSU venue. College stadiums are being used for championship games all across the nation. I have contacted KSU and they would welcome the games, somebody just needs to ask.

HB 2801 would allow a large gathering of recruiters to potentially uncover more students for scholarships. Additionally, the stadiums have plenty of parking and seating to handle the ebb and flow of traffic. The reasons given by the KSHSAA to not have games at KU or KSU seem superficial. This comes down to the kids' dreams and, when there is not compelling evidence to the contrary, we should allow them to be rewarded for all of their hard work.

Again, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony. Please let me know if you have any questions.

House Fed and State Committee  
March 6, 2008

Attachment 

My name is Mike Besler from Overland Park, KS. Chairperson Siegfried and Honorable committee members, as a high school student and football player and on behalf of many of my peers, thank you for the opportunity to write this letter in favor of HB 2801 being presented today.

Like many high school football players, it has been a dream of mine since a young kid to win a state football championship. Fortunately, I was able to accomplish this dream this past year. I was the quarterback of the 5A State Championship team, the Blue Valley West Jaguars. We played our game at Emporia State University. Although this was a memory I will never forget, I will always wonder what the experience would have been like playing at KU or KSU. Most high school football players never get the opportunity to play Division I football, so playing their high school championship game at a Division I school would be an experience that only comes around once. Playing in a stadium with 50,000 seats and a jumbotron is a dream of many young football players. Playing on the same field as childhood heroes like Michael Bishop and Darren Sproles is something any football player would love to experience. Last summer, our 7 on 7 team played a tournament at KSU Stadium. Although the stadium was completely empty, it was the most fun my teammates had playing 7 on 7 all summer. If filling a large stadium with fans is a concern, having more than one class championship game played at the same venue is a consideration to increase attendance.

This is not an issue I alone agree on, but also my teammates. We would have loved to play at a larger venue like KU or KSU Stadiums. I cannot go back and play the state championship game over but I know future players would love an opportunity to

House Fed and State Committee  
March 6, 2008

Attachment

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play their championship games there. I am writing this so other student athletes have a chance to play the biggest game of their lives at one of the biggest venues in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this matter, and I am personally asking for your support of this bill.

Respectively,

Mike Besler