

Proponent Testimony of SB No. 13
For the Senate Education Committee
January 23, 2023
Spencer T. McKee

Sr. Business Development Manager, Lennox International

Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 13 on behalf of fans that watch Kansas High School sports on live streaming services.

I currently reside in McKinney, TX. I grew up in Kansas and most of my immediate family still reside in Kansas including my parents, three siblings and thirteen nieces and nephews. My brother is the head men's basketball coach at Colby High School. I grew up in Colby, a small community where high school athletics brings people together and teaches our kids life lessons. I was fortunate to be part of some great teams and got to witness firsthand the impact a strong athletic program can have on a small community. Not a day goes by that I don't think about and appreciate what I got to experience being part of a state championship team in a small town. The pride and pure enjoyment that season brought to Colby is a memory I will cherish forever. Inevitably our high school years end rather quickly, and we end up chasing new dreams which often lead us to places far from home. My family and I have landed in Texas; however, my roots will always be in Kansas, and I will always call Kansas home. We still make the 9-hour drive back to Colby 2-3 times a year to spend time with family and to catch up with old friends. Every time I'm home I run into somebody that wants to talk about that state championship season and how much it meant to them and the community 24 years ago. That may be why I still have so much passion for our community and our high school athletic programs. Fortunately, I get to keep up with our teams and watch my brother coach on Open Spaces Sports. I get to watch Rich Epp call the games, the same voice that called my state championship game in 1999. After the games my family and I trade texts or phone calls recapping the game. I get to talk X's & O's with my brother and enjoy his success from afar. I get to watch his post-game interviews which gives me the opportunity to poke fun at him from time to time. Unfortunately, last season (2022) I was unable to watch the Colby HS post season game at the Norton Sub-State. It's tough for a fan not to be able to watch and cheer on their team in the most important games of the season. The Colby HS men's team is currently enjoying a very successful season with hopes of making a deep post season run. My hope is that I get to watch those games from my home in McKinney, TX on Open Spaces Sports. I encourage you to pass Senate Bill No. 13 so myself and other Kansans whose paths have led them far from home can enjoy these games through their local broadcast. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Spencer T. McKee
Colby HS Alum, Family Member & Fan