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CARYN TYSON  
12TH DISTRICT

TO: Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
FROM: Senator Caryn Tyson, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
Re: SENATE BILL NO. 249 – TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT  
Date: January 18, 2024

Chairman Thompson, Vice-Chairman Kloos, Ranking Faust-Goudeau, and Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill (SB) 249.

Kansas uses an election process to replace vacancies for a U.S. House, state house, state senate, county clerk, county treasurer, sheriff, and other seats. Why are we not using an election for replacement of a vacated state treasurer or insurance commissioner seat? Instead, one person gets to decide.

Election versus appointment – it's that simple.

Elections provide greater transparency. Elections allow for candidates to present their skillsets and qualifications so that voters can make an informed decision. This may or may not occur when one person is appointing the replacement.

Our government has a separation of powers, a replacement election respects that separation and gives the people an opportunity to have a voice in the process. An appointment tips the scales of power.

Your support for SB 249 will improve the process for a vacated treasurer or insurance commissioner and give the people back their voice.

Thank you for your consideration. I ask for your support on this important legislation.