

Proponent of SB 474

For the Honorable Chair and Committee on State and Federal Affairs:

I am so thankful for you and the committee for understanding the importance of the legislative process and dynamic between the citizens rights and the enactment of laws and ordinances. Maintaining the right to “petition the government” for all issues and concerns that negatively impact citizens is vital to our 1st Amendment protection of rights.

US Constitution Amendment 1

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, **and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**”

As a proud and productive citizen of Kansas, I am raising 4 children to understand and appreciate our 3 branches of government and why it is important to us. SB 474 is a prime example of why it is important to be involved to be able to advocate for change that promotes our rights as citizens. I want to make sure that my children and their children live in a country where they are not limited by the government of what they can and can't petition. My understanding of the current KSA 12-3013 restricts petitioning city government to only legislative in nature issues? I don't agree with a petition by a citizen of the United States being nullified based on its classification of being administrative. This seems to be a loophole that benefits the governing entity instead of the governed citizen which goes against the nature of the intent of the Constitution and tone for the rights of its citizens.

Where does the line begin and end between the relationship of administrative and legislative? I would request if SB 474 is not passed that the committee would consider clarifying distinctions between legislative and administrative aspects for future petitions.

I would encourage you to consider the administrative aspects and authority being granted by the legislature should also be included in being subject to petition. This makes the most sense as the authority comes from the elected body of the legislature for making legislation that can make, change, or impact administrative process. Why is the citizen than restricted to petition regarding administrative aspects resulting from legislation that impact the citizen directly. Why shouldn't the citizen resume the right to petition for grievances relating to administrative aspects to be considered instead of being struck down for categorical indifference?

I am concerned that KSA 12-3013 is subjectively limiting/restricting my rights as a law-abiding citizen to petition my government freely and openly. I suggest a simple edit of KSA 12-3013 to take out the subjective word “administrative” which would free up our rights from being infringed. Keeping it simple for the constitutional rights of each individual to be protected and upheld.

Thank you again for what you do and the vital role you play in protecting our rights and upholding both the State and National Constitutions!

Respectfully Submitted,

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