

## HB2054 Opponent Written Only Testimony

Chairman Proctor and Members of the Committee,

I'd like to voice my concern over **HB 2054**, which would eliminate limits on contributions to party committees while increasing contribution limits for individual candidates. While I understand the need for flexibility in campaign funding, this bill misses the mark and could lead to unintended consequences that hurt the integrity of our electoral process.

First, let's talk about the removal of limits on contributions to party committees. In my view, this shift is a dangerous step toward increasing the influence of political parties in ways that could undermine voter trust and fairness in our elections. By allowing parties to raise unlimited funds, we're essentially handing them unchecked power over who gets financial backing. This creates a system where it's not the voters who decide which candidates have the best ideas, but the political parties with the deepest pockets.

The reality is, not every candidate has the luxury of being backed by a well-funded party committee. Many of our most compelling candidates are those who aren't beholden to party elites or large donors, but are truly fighting for their communities. If we remove the contribution limits for parties, we're making it that much harder for these candidates to compete. It tilts the playing field in favor of the establishment, leaving independent voices and smaller campaigns struggling to keep up.

I also understand the need to increase individual contribution limits to allow candidates to fund their campaigns. But let's be clear: we shouldn't be increasing the power of political parties at the expense of voters' voices. The contributions individuals make to a candidate should reflect their own support, not their ability to be swayed by party influence. When we limit party contributions, we ensure that the funding stays in the hands of those who are directly supporting the candidates they believe in, rather than allowing the party to step in and funnel more resources into the race.

Ultimately, this bill is about power. It's about making sure the right people—those with access to unlimited party funds—are the ones who succeed in the election. But this isn't how democracy should work. We should be giving voters the power to choose their representatives, not political parties or big-money donors. Let's keep limits in place on party contributions to maintain a fair, competitive system for all candidates, no matter their party affiliation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Sue

Vosburgh

Sedgwick County Precinct Committeewoman