

## SB5 Written-only Proponent Testimony

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

SB5 is a necessary measure to protect Kansas elections from federal overreach and make sure they stay fair, transparent, and accountable to the people of Kansas.

Elections are meant to be handled by the states, not the federal government. When the federal government gets involved, it risks undermining this important framework. For example, Executive Order 14019, issued by President Biden, directs federal agencies to take part in election-related activities, like voter outreach, often working behind the scenes with third-party groups that could have political ties. SB5 ensures that Kansas stays in control of its elections.

Allowing federal money to come into state and local elections can lead to unfair advantages for certain districts or political groups. We saw this happen in 2020 with the “Zuckerbucks” situation. SB5 ensures that federal funding doesn’t create situations where certain districts could be unfairly advantaged, keeping elections impartial.

Kansans deserve to know their elections are free from outside influence. SB5 strengthens that by keeping Kansas elections for Kansas voters, without federal or private interference.

Federal funding often comes with strings attached, which could influence where and how money is used, and that’s why SB5 makes sure Kansas—and not the federal government—decides how election funds are spent. This helps avoid any misuse of funds to benefit a particular party or agenda.

I would also like to raise a question regarding the use of the term “indirectly” in line 29, page 1 of SB5. What does it mean to “indirectly” accept or expend federal funds? It may be beneficial to clarify this term to ensure there’s no confusion.

SB5 is a crucial step in protecting Kansas elections from federal interference. Passing this bill will ensure that our elections stay fair, transparent, and accountable to Kansas voters, sticking to the principle that elections should be managed at the state level. I strongly encourage your support of SB5.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Sue

Vosburgh

Sedgwick County Precinct Committeewoman