



REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

WENDY BINGESSER

KANSAS NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN

**Testimony of the Kansas Republican Party
Written Proponent for SB 105
Committee on Federal and State Affairs
February 5, 2025**

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 105. This legislation ensures that when vacancies occur in the offices of State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, or United States Senator, the replacement continues to reflect the will of Kansas voters. It requires the governor to appoint a replacement from the same political party as the departing officeholder, selecting from three nominees put forward by the legislature. This process upholds continuity and fairness in government.

We have already seen why this reform is necessary. When Treasurer Jake LaTurner resigned to serve in Congress, the governor appointed a replacement from her own party, flipping partisan control of the office. This ignored the will of voters who had elected a Republican to oversee state finances. Senate Bill 105 ensures such reversals do not happen again.

Kansas already applies this principle when filling vacancies in the state legislature, where replacements come from the same political party to honor voter intent. The same standard should apply to statewide offices, where partisan alignment directly impacts governance.

If a vacancy occurred in the U.S. Senate current law would give the governor full discretion to appoint a new senator, potentially shifting partisan control in Washington. With the Senate often narrowly divided, a single appointment could alter the balance of power and impact national policy. Senate Bill 105 ensures any U.S. Senate vacancy is filled in a way that maintains political continuity.

This legislation is about preserving the integrity of our electoral process and preventing political maneuvering. By requiring replacements to align with the departing officeholder's party, Senate Bill 105 ensures Kansas voters—not a single politician—determine the direction of our government.

I urge the committee to support this bill. Kansans deserve a government that accurately reflects their votes. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Wendy Bingesser
National Committeewoman
Kansas Republican Party