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SENATE CHAMBER

Committee on Elections
Rep. Scott Schwab, Chairperson
February 4, 2013

Testimony by Senator Rob Olson, District 23 - 236-E

Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to HB 2112.

I would like to express my support for HB 2112 that concerns the transportability of a candidate or elected candidate's campaign committee funds from one campaign to a subsequent campaign to run for a different public office.

It is my opinion that most campaign contributions are made because of the person running for office. It has been my personal experience over 20 years of service in elective office at both the local and state legislative level that my list of core campaign contributors has grown, but seems to include the same people who have supported me previously at a different level.

Currently after an election cycle those campaign fund balances that have not been spend are stranded with only a few awkward options to free them up. The most common option currently exercised is to just spend down the balances as quickly as one can. Another common option is to attempt to return unused campaign funds partially spent providing the dilemma of what contributors get what is left and who does not.

I have always felt that the experience and influence circles that a member of the Kansas House or Senate develops could be valuable to local governmental entities after retirement from service at the state level. It seems to me that if a retiring state senator had the option of transferring balances from a state campaign account to local city council, county commission or school board, Kansas communities could benefit greatly.

Thank you for your consideration.