

**HOUSE FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**HB 2197**  
**March 14, 2013**

I am testifying in opposition to HB 2197 on behalf of my school district – Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools.

We are keenly aware of the vital role school sponsored activities play in broadening and enriching our students' educational experience. In our district, these activities are the primary motivation for many of our students to stay in school. I'm confident that most USDs in Kansas also have students who stay in school because of their love of one or more of these activities. That is why we place such a premium value on the role of the Kansas State High School Activities Association. We believe that over the decades, the organization has met the needs of the majority of Kansas high school students. We also believe that the present structure is both democratic and responsive to all the stakeholders, including the schools, the parents, the coaches/moderators and most importantly, the students.

Kansas City Kansas Public Schools is opposed to changing the leadership structure of KSHSAA by increasing the makeup of this board with political appointees. A truly independent activities association board has served this state well and we believe that there is not a legitimate public policy rationale to alter this structure.

For these reasons, the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools asks the House Federal & State Affairs Committee to reject HB 2197.

Bill Reardon  
KCKPS Lobbyist