



February 11, 2013

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 109
Senate Ethics, Elections & Local Government Committee

Mister Chair and members of the committee,

I am proud to provide testimony today, representing the more than 45,000 members of Americans for Prosperity-Kansas.

AFP Kansas supports SB 109, relating to state appropriated monies being used to lobby at the state and local level. We believe that taxpayer funded lobbying propagates the cycle of more spending and more programs that call for more spending of taxpayer dollars.

Taxpayer-funded lobbying reform has been a part of AFP-Kansas' legislative agenda for a number of years. Back in 2007, we conducted a statewide open records request to find out just how many government entities and associations were using tax dollars to lobby the legislature for more tax dollars. We had a hard time getting answers. Many local governments were part of such associations that regularly lobby, but few were willing to recognize that it was tax dollars paying for those memberships, and tax dollars helping fund the organizations' lobbying efforts.

Opponents of this bill may say that government interests need to be represented under the dome. But state and local governments already have their interests represented in Topeka by the senators and representatives whose job it is to represent their constituents. Tax dollars should be used to deliver necessary government services, not to lobby for legislation that if enacted, ultimately results in bigger government.

AFP-Kansas will continue to push for legislation restricting taxpayer-funded lobbying in all forms. Unless we are able to achieve serious reforms, the culture of "more is never enough" under the capitol dome is sure to continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 109.

Derrick Sontag
Kansas State Director
Americans for Prosperity