



GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS COMMISSION

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**Written Testimony before Senate Elections and Local Government Committee
in Support of Senate Bill 99
by Carol Williams, Executive Director
February 13, 2013**

Senate Bill 99 is a recommendation made in the Governmental Ethics Commission's 2012 Annual Report and Recommendations.

In Kansas, a lobbyist is defined as “ (1) Any person employed in considerable degree for lobbying; (2) any person formally appointed as the primary representative of an organization or other person to lobby in person on state-owned or leased property; or (3) any person who makes expenditures in an aggregate amount of \$100 or more, exclusive of personal travel and subsistence expenses, in a calendar year for lobbying”.

The Commission is recommending raising the dollar threshold for defining when a person becomes a lobbyist to be any person who makes reportable lobbying expenditures in an aggregate amount of \$500 or more. When the Governmental Ethics Laws were enacted in 1974, the \$100 threshold was established. Due to inflation, the Commission believes that after 39 years it is time to raise this dollar threshold.

The Commission urges your support and passage of SB 99.