

The 60 Plus Association

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Kill the Death Tax. Protect Social Security. Energy Security.

James L. Martin
Chairman

Amy N. Frederick
President

Rep. Roger Zion (R-IN, 1967-75)
Honorary Chairman

Pat Boone
National Spokesman

March 11, 2013

Senate Utilities Committee
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As President of the 60 Plus Association and on behalf of over 147,000 Kansas seniors, I am writing to express support for HB 2201, legislation modernizing the state's telecommunications laws.

Founded in 1992, the 60 Plus Association is a non-partisan seniors advocacy group with a free enterprise, less government, less taxes approach to seniors issues. We believe that seniors, and society at large, are best served when minimal government intrusion and fierce competition combine to create an environment of more choice and better service.

Communications are rapidly changing the ways we live, work and play. Perhaps once considered the domain of a younger generation, seniors have embraced technology. Adoption of these new technologies allows seniors to connect rapidly and in new ways. Increased social connectivity through wireless or video chat technologies gives seniors access to family and friends who may be far away, decreases loneliness and contributes to an overall feeling of wellness. Seniors can now email their family, take online classes, and even check their Facebook status. In fact, one in five seniors is now using Facebook for an hour each day.

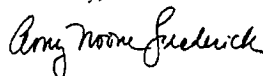
Of particular interest to our members are some exciting advances in health care. Wireless technology and devices are making it possible for patients of all ages to spend less time in hospitals while receiving better, more holistic care at home. For example, mobile monitoring of medicine or blood glucose levels is now possible. These advances in technology assist doctors with real time data that just isn't possible in a hospital – and it happens seamlessly.

For seniors, perhaps most exciting for a state like Kansas with expansive rural areas is the introduction of connectivity for rural hospitals. Seniors who live in rural areas may not need to make a trip to a larger city to see a specialist in the near future. Video conferencing and the ability to read diagnostic tests remotely is already bringing specialized care to rural areas for a fraction of the cost. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Genachowski noted this summer that mHealth can reduce costs by 25% among seniors by “reducing the number of face-to-face consultations needed.” The rapid acceleration of technology and the benefits it brings for our constituency is exciting.

Kansas cannot wait; the market is moving fast. We respectfully ask that you join us in support of HB 2201. Kansas seniors are counting on you to update communications rules and bring the benefits of technology to this state.

Thank you for your consideration and for everything you do to support seniors across the Sunflower State.

Sincerely,



Amy Noone Frederick
President

Senate Utilities Committee
March 12, 2013
Attachment 4-1

The 60 Plus Association is a 21-year-old nonpartisan organization working for death tax repeal, saving Social Security, affordable prescription drugs, lowering energy costs and other issues featuring a less government, less taxes approach as well as a strict adherence to the Constitution. 60 Plus calls on support from over 7 million citizen activists. 60 Plus publishes a newsletter, SENIOR VOICE, and a Scorecard, bestowing awards on lawmakers of both parties who vote “pro-senior.” 60 Plus has been called “an increasingly influential senior citizen’s group.”