



Kansas Press Association, Inc.

Dedicated to serving and advancing the interests of Kansas newspapers

5423 SW Seventh Street • Topeka, Kansas 66606 • Phone (785) 271-5304 • Fax (785) 271-7341 • www.kspress.com

March 16, 2015

To: Rep. Mark Hutton, chairman, Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

From: Denice Kuhns, publisher of the Meade County News and Clark County Gazette and a member of the Kansas Press Association Board of Directors

Re: HB 2237

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I'll be brief. As a publisher of two community newspapers in Southwest Kansas, I am greatly alarmed at the ramifications of HB 2237.

He is one reason why. The Ashland Hospital Board approved a resolution at their January board meeting that would authorize them to raise property taxes 20 mills to fund a \$14,600,000 bond issue.

They have not disclosed a plan for a new hospital, even though at their annual meeting last summer they clearly stated that they would. I have offered to do stories on their plan five times, which have not been agreed to.

So, out of the blue they publish a resolution, which would sail through and commit the citizens to the \$14,600,000 debt without a vote. Luckily, the resolution was published and we were able to notify the citizens of the district what their options were to force it to go to a vote.

But if HB 2237 had been in place this would be a different story. The people who live in the district have read the paper and have contacted us over the past two days, thanking us for keeping an eye out for them.

Please consider the consequences of this bill and vote on the side of the people that elected you.

Denice Kuhns, publisher
Meade County News
Clark County Gazette