



March 9, 2015

Chair Kahrs, Minority Member Sawyer, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the nineteen Community College Presidents and Trustees of the Kansas Association of Community College Trustees, I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to Sub SB171.

Our colleges are governed by locally elected trustees, and our current non-partisan spring elections work very well with our budget cycle, our school year and our community needs.

Our fiscal year runs July 1st through June 30th. As the election stands now, once a board member is elected in April there is an opportunity for these individuals to participate in spring budget workshops and help design the budget/mill levy which they will be endorsing/supporting as an elected board member. If the process moves to August and general elections to November, that positive opportunity does not exist and the newly elected board member is living with a budget for 8 months which they did not support or understand. Assuming office in January creates a situation where half of the Board may come on mid-year, all trying to get up to speed on issues halfway through the school year and the budget. Current spring elections allow for involvement in the issues and the budget formation for the year in which they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda Fund", is written over a horizontal line.

Linda Fund, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Community College Trustees  
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Topeka, KS 66603  
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