

300 SW 10th Ave.
Rm 312-N
Topeka, KS 66612-1593



phone: 785-296-3296
fax: 785-296-6650
www.kslib.info

Joanne Budler, State Librarian

State Library of Kansas

Sam Brownback, Governor

To: Senator Robert Olson, Chair
Senator Mike Petersen, Vice Chair
Senator Marci Francisco
Senator Tom Hawk
Senator Forrest Knox
Senator Jeff Longbine
Senator Julia Lynn
Senator Ty Masterson
Senator Larry Powell
Senator Greg Smith
Senator Rick Wilborn

From: Jo Budler, State Librarian

Subject: Senate Bill No. 346

Date: February 3, 2016

.....

Senator Olson, members of the Committee on Utilities, please accept my testimony in support of Senate Bill No. 346. SB346 will increase the broadband speed required to be provided at affordable rates to schools, hospital and libraries. The increased speed -- from 1.5 megabits (MGB) per second to 10 megabits per second download and one megabit per second upload -- will be most welcome and appreciated by the public librarians and the community members that they serve.

As you may recall, there are 324 public libraries serving Kansans across the state. In the more rural areas of our state, the library often is the only location with Internet access open to the public at no charge.

Each year the State Library of Kansas asks the directors of the public libraries to complete a survey. All 324 libraries are included in the 2014 data. From this survey, we know that there are 3,736 public access computers in public libraries across the state and all are connected to the Internet. **These computers were used 3,141,068 times** by people who were applying for jobs, looking for information, communicating with family members and friends, doing homework assignments, learning a language and so much more. We know from anecdotal information that often people come to the library when they are starting a business, not only to get information on how to start a business but also often to jumpstart their enterprise, utilizing the library's Internet until they are able to afford an Internet connection on their own.

3,141,068 uses is a high number but it does not include the number of people who come to the library with their own personal devices to utilize the wireless. We also know that people often sit in the parking lot after the library has closed and use the wireless service from there. Individuals who use the library Internet service in this way are also NOT included in the number above.

1.5 MGB per second is often not an adequate speed to support the high usage in a library. While 10 MGB is probably still not high enough to meet all of the needs without some slowness in the network, it brings us closer to an adequate speed. It is worth noting that the upload speed is also in need of an upgrade. This is especially important to the user who is uploading information, for example an application or order form, as might be necessary in a business or essential to a job applicant.

Thank you for your consideration.