

Gayla Shields, Miami County Treasurer



TESTIMONY

Senate Ways and Means Committee

Senate Bill No. 389

February 2, 2016

Chairman Masterson and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, my name is Gayla Shields, Miami County Treasurer. Thank you for considering my written testimony in opposition of Senate Bill No. 389. This testimony is written with the support of the Kansas County Treasurer's Association.

I draw your attention specifically to Section 17, Kansas Department of Revenue, paragraph (d), page 5, carrying over to page 6, of the bill. This proposed language is reflective of what was attempted last year, to do away with sending the motor vehicle renewal notices to vehicle owners. The proposed language appears to replace the notice with a postcard. The plan last year was to only show the plate numbers on the card and it was the responsibility of the vehicle owner to print the renewal notice from the internet to find the amount(s) due and/or use the information to renew through an online portal, mail to their local County Treasurer's Office, or to appear in person in their local County Treasurer's office to process a transaction.

This plan is not a good one for Kansans. As advanced in technology as people are today, some still do not have the internet in their homes. Kansas still has a large area of rural residents, some of which will not have the availability of the internet in their homes, without a high cost. Those that don't have easy access to the information, are not tech-savvy, or that simply do not wish to use the internet, will be forced to find someone to help them, or will call their local County Treasurer's Office for assistance, and some will physically visit their local County Treasurer's Office to get help in the matter.

Counties and County Treasurers, as well as all forms of local government, are being expected to do more with less. If the renewal notice is allowed to change to a postcard, local county offices will experience an increase in expense and needed resources. In many ways, it is an unfunded mandate to local government, County Treasurers. More resources will be necessary to handle the increase in telephone calls and in-person visits. Not to mention, the inconvenience and lack of friendly customer service to the Kansas motoring public from the State of Kansas.

Please give careful consideration of this matter when you have the opportunity to voice your opinion and/or to vote on these bills. Your support and effort to remove paragraph (e) is greatly appreciated.