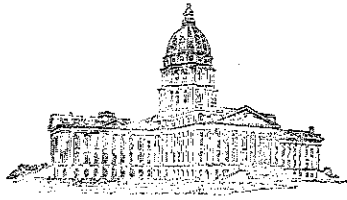


State of Kansas



**Jim Ward**

House Democratic Leader

January 29, 2018

To: Chairman Esau and House Elections Committee Members  
From: Rep. Jim Ward, House Minority Leader  
RE: Proponent testimony for HB 2155

Chairman Esau and Legislative Colleagues:

Thank you for discussing House Bill 2155, the Kansas Integrity in Government Act. This act would prohibit an individual from lobbying or being employed as a lobbyist for one year after leaving public office. For the purposes of this bill, public office is defined as elected state office or elected state officials such as the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Commissioner of Insurance, and members of the Legislature. The prohibition would also apply to an individual's term of office or employment in an executive capacity as an agency or department head or senior level staff person to which the person was appointed by a state elected official.

The intent of HB 2155 is to stop the revolving door between public service and lobbying. This cooling off period would reduce insider influence and put more emphasis on the merits of ideas and less about who you know in the Capitol.

Forty-one states currently have some period of time restricting when former legislators can begin lobbying careers. Of those 41 states, 26 require the one-year hiatus. At the federal level, members of Congress must sit out

for one year and Senators for two years after leaving office before they can engage in lobbying careers.

HB 2155 will reduce influence peddling by former elected or senior level staff. It will promote the idea that the people's business is the prime directive, not insider influence. Further, it will ensure policy proposals are more likely to be decided by the merit of their ideas rather than the political muscle of the lobbyist.

With that said, I will stand for questions. Thank you for your time today.