STATE OF KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



SUSAN HUMPHRIES

99TH DISTRICT

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To: Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

Date: February 15, 2018

RE: SB 340

From: Representative Susan Humphries, 99th District

In Support

Dear Chairman Estes and members of the committee.

I am writing in support for SB 340, the campus free speech protection act. Freedom of speech is one of the most foundational rights of Americans, and that right does not stop when a student steps onto a university campus. In order for all our rights to be both exercised and protected, free speech must be held sacred.

Our college campuses are the breeding grounds of future leaders, business owners, and innovators. They should spark students' creativity and fan the flame of curiosity. This means that students must be free to speak without fear of restriction or university bias. The campus free speech protection act would codify the right already granted to citizens. It ensures that university governance does not overstep its bounds and unfairly silence student groups or speakers.

As SB 340 states, universities are not "immune from the sweep of the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States." This legislature needs to recognize the rights of the students who attend this state's universities by passing SB 340 out of committee.

Respectfully,

Representative Susan Hamphries