

February 19, 2020

Senator John Barker  
Chairman, Committee on State and Federal Affairs  
Kansas Capitol Building, Rm. 285-N  
Topeka, KS 66612

Subject: Proposed Amendments to HB2385

Dear Representative Barker,

We are writing in support of the Proposed Amendments to House Bill 2385 presented by Allen Hahn.

We have been Square Dancing for over 27 years, serving in leadership roles in our local club, district, and state organizations. We served on the Sunflower Board (Executive Board) as Registration & Housing Chairman of the 57<sup>th</sup> National Square Dance Convention held in Wichita in 2008. We have served as President of the Kansas Square Dance Association (KSDA) for three terms and are currently Past President.

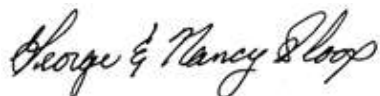
George is currently Vice President of Croco Square Inc. and Nancy is the Booking Agent for Croco Hall. As Allen noted in his presentation, Croco Hall was built by square dancers as a venue for square dancing. On the average about 180 square dance events are held at the hall each year.

Several of the square dance clubs in the Blue District of KSDA (roughly northeast and north central Kansas) have recently completed lessons and graduated about 50 new square dancers.

We feel the Polka is a very important part of the ethnic heritage of many Kansans. However, we believe the Square Dance is a more diverse representation of folk dancing for all Kansans. Thus we support the designation of the Polka dance as the official State Ethnic Dance and the Square Dance as the official State Folk Dance.

Thank you to you and your Committee for your consideration of our remarks.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George & Nancy Sloop".

George & Nancy Sloop  
3801 SE 31<sup>st</sup> Street  
Topeka, KS 66605