

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Bill Sutton
Representative, 43rd District

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
CHAIRMAN: ELECTIONS
APPROPRIATIONS
INSURANCE
TRANSPORTATION

The Knights of Columbus was formed in 1882 to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works. The Knights of Columbus has grown from several members in one council to 15,900 councils and 1.9 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, Guam, Saipan, Lithuania, Ukraine, and South Korea. It's the largest fraternal Catholic organization in the world.

Our charitable activities encompass an almost infinite variety of local, national and international projects. From international charitable partnerships with Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission and Habitat for Humanity to our own Food for Families and Coats for Kids projects and other local charities, the opportunity to work together with fellow Knights and their families is virtually endless. In 2017, the Knights of Columbus set a new all-time record for the 19th consecutive year. Our charitable donations increased from \$177 million in 2016 to a new total of \$185,652,989 in 2017. In addition, we achieved our highest level of charitable service in 2017, volunteering more than 75 million hours of service. I say "our" because I am a Past Grand Knight

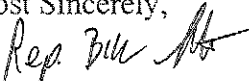
In Kansas, there are 260 Knights councils with a membership over 38,000 across the state. The annual Tootsie Roll Program raised over \$364,000 last year to help people with intellectual disabilities. Since its beginning in Kansas, this program has distributed \$10.5 million to centers across the state and is the prime sponsor of the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament.

The Pennies from Heaven Program gives immediate financial assistance for clothing, food or shelter to families, regardless of race, creed or national origin, whose homes are destroyed by fire or other natural disasters. Since inception the program has provided \$1.1 million for 5,290 claims.

A distinctive license plate will help to spread awareness of how many Knights there are throughout Kansas, and maybe even encourage someone to ask about becoming a Knight, thus helping us to continue our charitable work.

I thank the committee for its consideration of HB 2592, and urge your support for a favorable passage.

Most Sincerely,


Rep. Bill Sutton,
43rd District, Kansas