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Testimony in Support for House Bill 2712

Establishing the Kansas Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial

Chairman Waymaster and members of the House Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony in support of House Bill 2712 (HB2712). To date, twenty-one states have established their 250th organization with several more considering legislation. I hope Kansas can join the growing group of states committed to celebrating our nation's milestone.

I am the 6th great granddaughter of Noah Lee and David Smiley - two farmers from northeast Pennsylvania who signed an Oath of Allegiance, took up arms in their local militia, and sacrificed their safety and livelihoods to help create an independent nation. Because of my 6th great grandfathers, I now have the opportunity to share this testimony and be a part of a free and democratic process.

HB2712 establishes the Kansas Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial. This state-level Commission compliments the Congressionally-established U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission. Nationally, this official government body is charged with preparing an overall program for commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States. While Kansans will certainly benefit from the planning of the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission, our own Kansas Commission would plan for a series of events and experiences most fitting for our Kansas citizens to observe 250 years of achievements, events, and trials that shaped our state and nation.

The voting members identified in HB2712 to comprise the Kansas Semiquincentennial Commission represent a diversity of perspectives from educators to law makers. Collectively this group would seek the input of Kansans, across generations, geographies, and backgrounds, to develop programming that appeals to all Kansans and collectively inspires our America spirit.

HB2712 names the State Regent of the Kansas Daughters of the American Revolution (KSDAR) as a member of the Kansas Semiquincentennial Commission. Today, I have the honor of serving as the KSDAR State Regent. And while DAR is a nonpolitical organization, I can tell you that more than 3,000 Kansas Daughters stand ready to assist the Kansas Commission in celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of this great Nation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share this testimony in support of HB2712.