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January 27, 2021

The Honorable Blake Carpenter  
Chairman, Kansas House Elections Committee  
Room 218-N  
Kansas Capitol  
Topeka, Kansas

RE: House Bill 2051, Manner of filling vacancies in unexpired terms of statutory offices

Dear Chairman Carpenter and Members of the Elections Committee,

I write as a proponent of House Bill 2051.

When Kansas voters elect a Republican or a Democrat in a statewide office, they do so because the candidate supports that party's agenda. It only makes sense that if the elected official is unable to fulfill the term that the party should select the replacement for the office until Kansas voters have an opportunity to elect a replacement.

Under this new law, in the event of an unexpected vacancy, the replacement for the Kansas State Treasurer and the Kansas Insurance Commissioner would be chosen by a state party delegate convention of the party to which the departing elected official was affiliated, rather than the Governor. Kansans already do this for county vacancies and state legislature vacancies. This is the most equitable manner to handle an unexpected vacancy of the State Treasurer or State Insurance Commissioner, both of which are statutory offices.

I encourage each of you to support this common sense and equitable approach to filling vacancies in unexpired terms of state-wide statutory offices.

Regards,

Michael J. Kuckelman  
Chairman, Kansas Republican Party