

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clay Aurand at 9:00 a.m. on February 16, 2010, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present, except:  
Representative Neufeld

Committee staff present:

Theresa Kiernan, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Reagan Cussimano, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Sharon Wenger, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amanda Nguyen, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dale Dennis, Kansas State Department of Education  
Janet Henning, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Gary Brockus, Overland Park  
Tony Sherman, Shawnee  
Marsha Cook, Johnson County resident  
Derek Wiedenmeyer, Johnson County resident

Written testimony:

Dennis Lauver, President/CEO Salina Area Chamber of Commerce  
Samantha Angell, Achterberg & Angell, Salina  
Galen Unruh, Principal/Activities Director, Berean Academy  
Michael Kastle, Superintendent, USD 245 LeRoy-Gridley  
Rod Wittmer, Principal Oswego High School, Oswego  
Dennis Post, Principal Rock Creek Jr/Sr High School, St. George  
Glenn McFall, Athletic Director, Meade High School, Meade  
Jack Koehn, Principal, Canton-Galva High School, Canton  
Lamar Bergsten, Athletic Director, USD 275  
Bill Walker, USD 107 Rock Hills  
Tracy Smith, Principal, USD 235 Uniontown  
John Lawrence, USD 413 Chanute  
Jackie Engle-Cook, Kansas Coaches Assoc,  
Representative of the KSHSAA Bd of Directors  
Mike Adams, Clay Center Community High School,  
Member of KSHSAA Bd of Directors  
Richard Bechard, Director of Student Activities, Blue Valley Schools  
David Dennis, Kansas State Board of Education, District #10  
Gary Musselman, Exec. Director, Kansas State High Schools Activities Assoc.  
Eric Armstrong, CAA, President, KSHSAA, President, KIAAA

**HB 2595 - School districts; of students residing outside the district.**

Chairman Aurand made a motion to add the balloon amendment to HB 2595. The motion was seconded by Representative Brookens. The motion carried.

Representative Craft made a motion to add a conceptual amendment from Brad Starnes, Superintendent, Riley County USD 378 which would include his school district (Riley County USD 378) to the list of schools included in HB 2595. The motion was seconded by Representative Flaharty. The motion failed.

Chairman Aurand moved to pass out HB 2595 favorably for passage as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Otto. The motion carried.

**HB 2601 - Schools; high density at-risk pupil weighting; linear transition computation.**

Chairman Aurand moved to adopt the balloon amendment for HB 2601. The motion was seconded by Representative Horst. The motion carried.

Representative Otto moved to amend the contents of HB 2410 and include in HB 2601. The motion was seconded by Representative Crow. The motion failed by show of hands.

Representative Brookens moved to pass out HB 2601 favorably for passage as amended. The motion was seconded by Representative Horst. The motion carried.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Education Committee at 9:00 a.m. on February 19, 2010, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

**HCR 5030 - Supporting a statewide statistical survey of high school football players' families regarding use of major university stadiums as host venues for football championship games.**

Sharon Wenger, Principal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department, gave an explanation of **HCR 5030.**

Gary Brockus, Overland Park, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **HCR 5030.** Mr. Brockus told Committee members his group was currently requesting the legislature support a statewide statistical survey of high school football players' families conducted by an independent third-party for the purposes of gauging interest in utilizing the football stadiums at University of Kansas, Kansas State University, or Wichita State University as host venues for high school football championship games. (Attachment 1)

Tony Sherman, Shawnee, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **HCR 5030.** Mr. Sherman told Committee members that his group had done extensive research regarding this issue. He stated the group had performed two surveys of student athletes and families in Kansas. (Attachment 2)

Marsha Cook, resident of Johnson County, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **HCR 5030.** (Attachment 3)

Derek Wiedenmeyer, resident of Johnson County, spoke to Committee members as a proponent of **HCR 5030.** (Attachment 4)

The following submitted written testimony as opponents of **HCR 5030:**

- Dennis Lauver, President/CEO Salina Area Chamber of Commerce (Attachment 5)
- Samantha Angell, Achterberg & Angell, Salina (Attachment 6)
- Galen Unruh, Principal/Activities Director, Berean Academy (Attachment 7)
- Michael Kastle, Superintendent, USD 245 LeRoy-Gridley (Attachment 8)
- Rod Wittmer, Principal Oswego High School, Oswego (Attachment 9)
- Dennis Post, Principal Rock Creek Jr/Sr High School, St. George (Attachment 10)
- Glenn McFall, Athletic Director, Meade High School, Meade (Attachment 11)
- Jack Koehn, Principal, Canton-Galva High School, Canton (Attachment 12)
- Lamar Bergsten, Athletic Director, USD 275 (Attachment 13)
- Bill Walker, USD 107 Rock Hills (Attachment 14)
- Tracy Smith, Principal, USD 235 Uniontown (Attachment 15)
- John Lawrence, USD 413 Chanute (Attachment 16)
- Jackie Engle-Cook, Kansas Coaches Assoc,  
Representative of the KSHSAA Bd of Directors (Attachment 17)
- Mike Adams, Clay Center Community High School,  
Member of KSHSAA Bd of Directors (Attachment 18)
- Richard Bechard, Director of Student Activities, Blue Valley Schools (Attachment 19)
- David Dennis, Kansas State Board of Education, District #10 (Attachment 20)
- Gary Musselman, Exec. Director, Kansas State High Schools Activities Assoc. (Attachment 21)
- Eric Armstrong, CAA, President, KSHSAA, President, KIAAA (Attachment 22)

A question and answer session followed the presentations.

Chairman Aurand closed the hearing on **HCR 5030.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2010.

I am Gary Brockus, and thank you for giving me the chance to speak here. I am from Overland Park. My one and only goal, is to help provide a once in a lifetime opportunity to student athletes as a reward for their hard work and excellence by playing the state championship football games at the states most impressive venues, **as 87% of other states do.** I have been to 10 state championship games in both large and small venues. I have also served as Chairperson of a large sports and recreation commission which serves tens of thousands of families. I and others have done extensive research regarding this matter and have been responsible and professional in our efforts.

#### PROCESS AND HISTORY

**Beginning in November 2007,** we presented a proposal to rotate all five of the 11 man championship football games in a year to year alternating fashion between large venues, such as KU or KSU, and the five small venues currently used. We call the proposal 50/50. The 50/50 aspect of our proposal recognizes there are differences in opinions about where the games should be played. It shows **respect for the preferences of all,** and to the existing 5 venues and cities which currently host the finals. These venues usually provide adequate service, though occasionally there can be problems with inadequate seating for the two participating schools.

**In March 2008,** at the athletic directors' annual convention, KSHSAA staff presented the issue. After the convention, I was notified 90 out of 100 members wanted to keep the current format. But there remain questions as to what important information was presented, or not.

**During December 2008,** we conducted our own statewide survey, and a month later we presented the results to the KSHSAA Executive Board. The survey involved questions about increased ticket prices, game days and times, and stadium atmosphere, which were issues the KSHSAA had given for not using major venues. After considering all those factors, 70.4% of 305 families (6% margin of error) surveyed statewide from 32 schools preferred KU or KSU to the existing venue. Despite overcoming all their previous issues, the Executive Board made no motion for change, citing lack of support from members who were not hearing from families a desire for change. The reason for that is simple. Only 4% of schools play in the state finals each year, it affects very few. A family from Ottawa for example, which is my hometown, will not contact their local school official and complain about the state finals not being at a major venue, when they haven't been to the state finals in 41 years. That is a common scenario statewide. **Relying on self initiated patron feedback will make it very unlikely change will ever occur, if that's the desired result.** Most families aren't aware KU or KSU are even potential options. The KSHSAA decision to leave KU/KSU after 2003 was **not** based on self initiated feedback from citizens. The KSHSAA has said the past **7 years** that KU and KSU remain "**under consideration**".

My local district activities director agreed to present our proposal at the AD's March 2009 annual convention. Unlike at the 2008 convention, the proposal was backed by the statewide survey which overcame the issues the KSHSAA had raised, and other supportive data. He expected a close vote. It was **65-3.** The only 3 "yes" votes in the whole state were from his district. Given the overwhelming facts to support it, how could this be? Why would every school official whose school was closer to KU or KSU have voted to make their patrons drive up to 7 hours further round trip to the existing venue? **Why would one school official who was in the state finals at Hays, vote to go back when we surveyed his patrons and they had voted 13-1 for KU or KSU. That is a perfect example of how relying on passive feedback from the public does not tell you what the families and students want.**

#### CONCLUSION

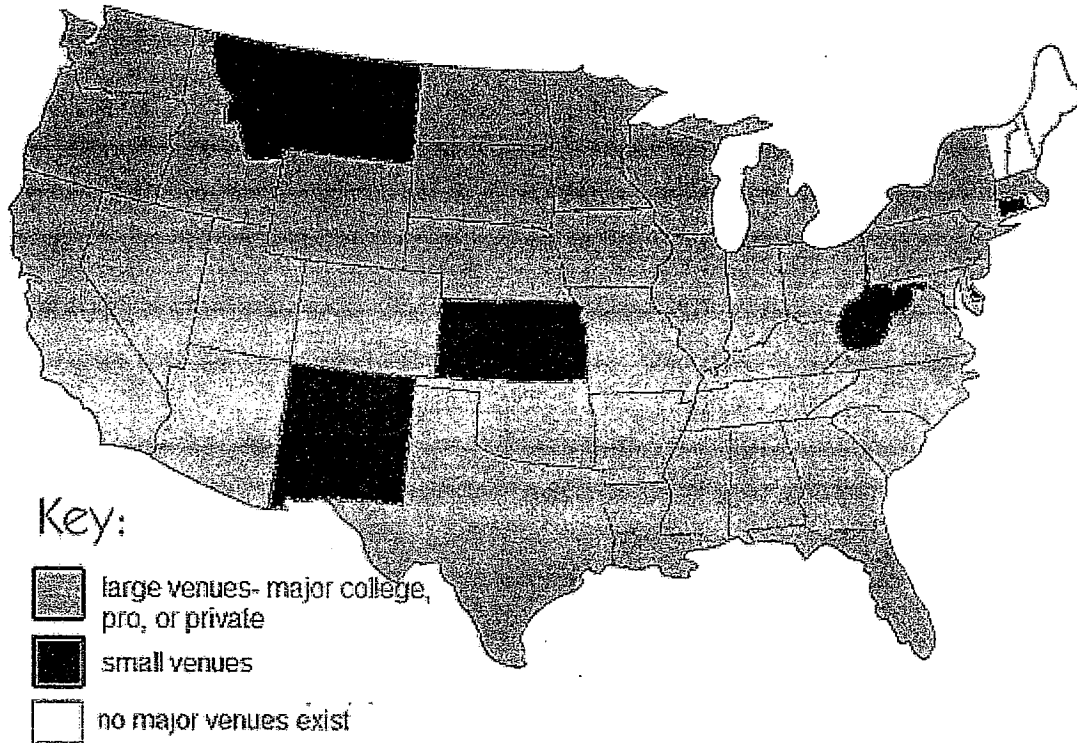
My wife and oldest daughter are teachers. Many of you have past or current personal ties to education, as a teacher or school board member. I'll ask you to broaden your geographic scope. You can see by the map, **the large majority of educators nationwide would support the use of large venues.** The

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Commissioner of the Wyoming Association has praised their recent successful trial of 5 games in 2 days at the University of Wyoming, **and cited how memorable it was for the kids.**

The KSHSAA can oppose any legislation they wish. But 5030 does not involve any KSHSAA rules, regulations or specific policies. Nothing is required of the KSHSAA with 5030. Therefore the students and families who elected you should not have the associations' opposition to 5030 prohibit your support students and families deserve. 5030 provides just the right amount of assistance for your constituents without encroaching into KSHSAA's self governance. 5030 stays within the defined boundaries and responsibilities of citizens, legislators, and the KSHSAA. Passage of this resolution and the survey results would provide data no one could dispute, which could be a guide for all. It will provide additional weight and influence on behalf of your constituents, whatever the survey results may be, and at no cost to taxpayers. Your authorization of this survey will allow an independent market researcher to approach school officials and get cooperation needed to conduct a survey. **The focus should be on all parties meeting the majority of students' and families' fair and reasonable wishes. That's who the games are for.** Please support HCR 5030. 5.0 minutes.

## Appendix



### 39 STATES THAT USE LARGE VENUES FOR THEIR STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Alabama	University of Alabama, 92,000 (all classes)
Arizona	Arizona State University, 73,000
Arkansas	Little Rock, War Memorial Stadium, 53,000
California	Home Depot Center, LA Galaxy soccer, 27,000
Colorado	Invesco Field, Denver Bronco's (NFL), 77,000 (2 classes)
Florida	Citrus Bowl, Orlando, 70,000 (all classes)
Georgia	Georgia Dome, Atlanta Falcons (NFL), 71,000 (all classes)
Hawaii	University of Hawaii, Aloha Stadium, 50,000 (all classes)
Idaho	Boise State University, 32,000, Univ Idaho, Idaho State Univ
Illinois	University of Illinois, 71,000 (all classes)
Indiana	Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis Colts (NFL), 63,000 (all classes)
Iowa	UNI-Dome, University of Northern Iowa, 16,000 (all classes)
Kentucky	Western Kentucky University, 24,000, (all classes)
Louisiana	Superdome, New Orleans Saints (NFL), 73,000 (Super Bowl site) (all classes)
Maryland	M & T Bank Stadium, Baltimore Ravens (NFL), 71,000 (all classes)
Massachusetts	Gillette Stadium, New England Patriots (NFL), 69,000(all classes)
Michigan	Ford Field, Detroit Lions (NFL), 65,000 (Super Bowl site) (all classes)
Minnesota	The Metrodome, Minnesota Vikings (NFL), 64,000 (all classes)
Mississippi	Jackson State University, 65,000 (all classes)
Missouri	Edward Jones Dome, St Louis Rams, NFL, 67,000(all classes)
Nebraska	University of Nebraska, 85,000 (all classes)
Nevada	University of Nevada- Las Vegas (UNLV), 45,000
New Jersey	Giants Stadium, New York Giants, (NFL), 80,000(all classes)
New York	Syracuse University, Carrier Dome, 50,000 (all classes)
North Carolina	University of North Carolina, NC State, Wake Forest Univ. 60,000 (all classes)
North Dakota	University of North Dakota, Fargo Dome, 19,000 (all classes)

Ohio	Fawcett Stadium (Canton Pro Football Hall of Fame), 23,000(3 classes)
Oklahoma	Oklahoma State University, 60,000 (3 classes)
Oregon	Oregon State University, 45,000 (3 classes)
Pennsylvania	Hershey Park Stadium, 16,000 (all classes)
South Carolina	University of South Carolina, 80,000 (4 classes)
South Dakota	University of South Dakota, Dakota Dome, 10,000 (all classes)
Tennessee	Tennessee Tech University, 17,000 (all classes)
Texas	Alamodome, 65,000 (2 classes), SMU also
Utah	University of Utah, 45,000 (3 classes)
Virginia	University of Virginia, 61,000 (2 classes); Virginia Tech
Washington	Tacoma Dome, prof. sports, 17,000 (all classes)
Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin, 80,000 (all classes)
Wyoming	University of Wyoming, 30,500 (all classes)

#### 6 STATES THAT USE HIGH SCHOOL OR SMALL COLLEGE VENUES

Kansas	5 small college and high school fields, 4,000-8,000 seats. KU 50,000; KSU 50,000; and WSU-30,000; available, but not used.
Connecticut	CCSU, SCSU, Central Connecticut State University, 3,500
Delaware	Delaware State University, 6,800
Montana	High school fields
New Mexico	High school fields
West Virginia	Wheeling Island Stadium, 12,200 (all classes)

#### 5 STATES USING SMALL VENUES WITHOUT MAJOR LARGE VENUES AVAILABLE

Alaska	Anchorage Stadium- First National Bowl, 4,500
Maine	High school field 6,000 (all classes)
New Hampshire	High school fields
Rhode Island	Pierce Field Soccer Park, 8,000
Vermont	High school fields

Sources: Wikipedia and National Federation of Activities Associations

The second issue addressed was the varying game times. Participants were told of the potential of playing their game anytime from Friday afternoon through Saturday night on Thanksgiving weekend. 94% of those asked still chose the larger venue.

Finally, they were asked for their opinion on stadium atmosphere. Although 38% felt the smaller venues would provide a better atmosphere, only 3.5% decided to change their vote to the smaller venue because of this issue. Regardless of whether people believe the smaller venues could provide a better atmosphere, they still want their championship game to be a once in a lifetime experience in a large venue.

After all the issues had been addressed 70.4% (215 of 305) of the participants chose KU or KSU as their venue of choice. Every issue the Activities Association raised was easily defeated when we surveyed those who are most affected; the families and student athletes. Yet not one member school other than the presenting district would support the proposal to play at KU and/or KSU 50% of the time. Further details of this survey are available for your review in Appendix A. Detailed results are in Appendix D.

When we presented these results to the Activities Association Board, we received more reasons why they could not support our proposal. One new reason given was a concern for a lack of on-field post-game celebration time due to games being held back to back. Three games can easily be played within normal game time boundaries currently practiced by the KSHSAA with ample celebration time on the field. 77% of players we surveyed after the 2007 championships would have rather been at KU or KSU in spite of unlimited celebration time at the existing venue.

The most recurring reason we were given this time is the process. The Association maintains there is a system in place for the patrons to have their opinions heard if change is truly desired. According to this process, patrons should contact their administrators to voice their opinion. We believe there are many faults with this system. First, we have previously demonstrated how patron feedback is unlikely on this issue. Second, there was no outcry from the public to quit using these venues after 2003, based on the Association's past testimony. Third, what assurance is there this system would ever produce change for the patrons? If we have all our survey participants call their administrators, what would result? Are any regulations in place requiring the administrators to act on phone calls? Where is the accountability in this system? Why can the results of a survey not be seen as "X" number of phone calls into administrators? This resolution should be seen as support for the Activities Association, not an encroachment. Effecting change state wide on this issue is not like raising money or resources for a struggling local recreational board or a high school gymnasium project. To expect a groundswell effort to rise up large enough to convince more than half of the AD's state wide to change their minds is unreasonable.

A statewide Activities Association should take the lead in finding out what their patrons' desire in their high school activities. Yet they oppose a simple, cost-free resolution to provide unquestioned data regarding their patrons' wishes on this issue. These are the same patrons who are most affected by these decisions and who the association calls "their most important clients". Your support and influence is needed, which is why this resolution is necessary.

## Appendix A.

Details of the survey performed by citizens between December 2008 and January 2009:

- Survey was performed by volunteer citizens using a script certified by two independent market research firms as unbiased toward the larger venues at KU and KSU. The script is available for review in Appendix II.
- 305 families participated in the survey from classes 2A to 5A. Class 6A was left out of this survey due to the large proportion (approximately 40%) of 6A schools residing in Johnson County. Based on other informal surveys we had previously performed, we are confident the survey results would have only been more skewed toward the large venues had class 6A been included. The surveys were spread evenly between the classes as well as between the east and west regions as defined by the KSHSAA. The survey participants were limited to those whose school had posted online rosters and whose home phone numbers were listed for public access.
- Of the 305 families surveyed, 89% were completed with the parents only answering the questions. The other 11 % involved the parents as well as student athlete input.
- Once the survey began, the participant was asked, "If your team was in the state championship football game, would you prefer to play the state championship game at KU, K-State, or at (the existing venue) where they currently play the game for your classification?" Exactly 80% (244 of 305) answered either KU or KSU. If the participant answered with the smaller/existing venue, the survey was concluded with the follow-up questions (the last two on the survey form). The script did not allow for these participants to change their answer from that point forward.
- For the remaining participants, the survey then began to address the issues brought forth by the KSHSAA. The second question asked, "Would you still be willing to play at (KU/ KSU) knowing the cost might be up to \$3 more per ticket than at (the existing venue) where it is currently held?" Only 7 of the 244 (2.8%) families asked decided to change their vote to the smaller/existing venues at this time. If the participant's vote remained for the large venue at this time, the surveyor moved to the next issue.
- The third question asked was, "would you still choose (KU/KSU) knowing the game time there could be Friday afternoon or evening, or anytime Saturday between 11am and 6pm?" Only 14 of the 237 (5.9%) families asked decided to change their vote to the smaller/existing venues at this time. If the participant's vote remained for the large venue at this time, the surveyor moved to the next issue.
- The fourth question asked was, "Do you believe that overall, a smaller college or high school stadium like (existing venue) would be a better championship game atmosphere than a major college stadium at KU or K-State?" Although 85 of the 223 (38.1%) thought that the smaller venue would provide a better atmosphere, only 8 of those 85 (9.4%) families decided to change their vote to the smaller/existing venues at this time.
- The participants were then asked to validate their vote based on all the issues discussed, which verified that 215 of 305 (70.4%), with a 6% margin of error, would rather see their children play state championship football games in large venues such as KU or KSU.
- The follow up questions were asked of all 305 survey participants. None of the families we surveyed could recall being asked by any school administrators for their opinion in this issue. 286 families gave permission for us to provide their name if requested.



Appendix B.

Sample script used during the citizens' survey performed in December 2008 and January 2009:

**(Words in bold are to help guide surveyors)**

**(Introduction)** Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm trying to reach the family of \_\_\_\_\_, am I at the right place? I'm one of many volunteers contacting high school football students and families statewide. If you could spare three minutes of your time and allow us to survey your opinion to 5 quick questions about high school football, it would be much appreciated. Would that be OK?

**(Student or parent speaking for student)** - If your team was in the state championship football game, would you prefer to play the state championship game at KU, K-State, or at (existing venue) where they currently play the game for your classification. \_\_\_\_ **(if (existing venue), ask why, and skip to the last question) (If student answered question, ask for his parents, and go to next question)**

**(Parents)** **(If student answered phone and question 1, you will need to restate part of introduction to parents to explain survey).** Since your son chose (KU or K-State) as to where to play the state championship game, would you still be willing to play there knowing the cost might be \$3 more per ticket than at (existing venue) where it is currently held. \_\_\_\_ **(yes or no)**

**(Parents)** The championship game is currently played at 1pm the Saturday after Thanksgiving at (existing venue). Would you still choose (KU/KSU) knowing the game time could be Friday afternoon or evening, or anytime Saturday between 11am and 6pm? \_\_\_\_ **(yes or no)**

**(Parents)** Stadium atmosphere is influenced by many factors. For instance there are many more empty seats at a big time stadium like at KU or K-State. Do you believe that overall, a smaller college or high school stadium like (existing venue) would be a better championship game atmosphere than a major college stadium at KU or K-State? \_\_\_\_ **(yes or no) (If yes, continue...)** Does that mean you and your son would now choose to rather play at (existing venue) than (Ku or K-State) as you had indicated? \_\_\_\_ **(yes or no)**

**(Parents)** Then to verify, considering all the factors into we've discussed, your families preference for the location of the state championship game would be? \_\_\_\_\_

**(Parents)** The last question- To the best of your knowledge, has anyone from you school, a coach or administrator asked for you or your son's opinions on this issue prior to this call \_\_\_\_ **(yes or no)? (if yes, continue...)** What did they do? \_\_\_\_\_

**(Parents)** The cumulative survey results will be provided to the Kansas High School Activities Association and Kansas legislators. If requested, may we use your individual name to list indicating the final location you chose? \_\_\_\_ **(yes or no)?**

We're finished. Thanks for your time. Happy Holidays.

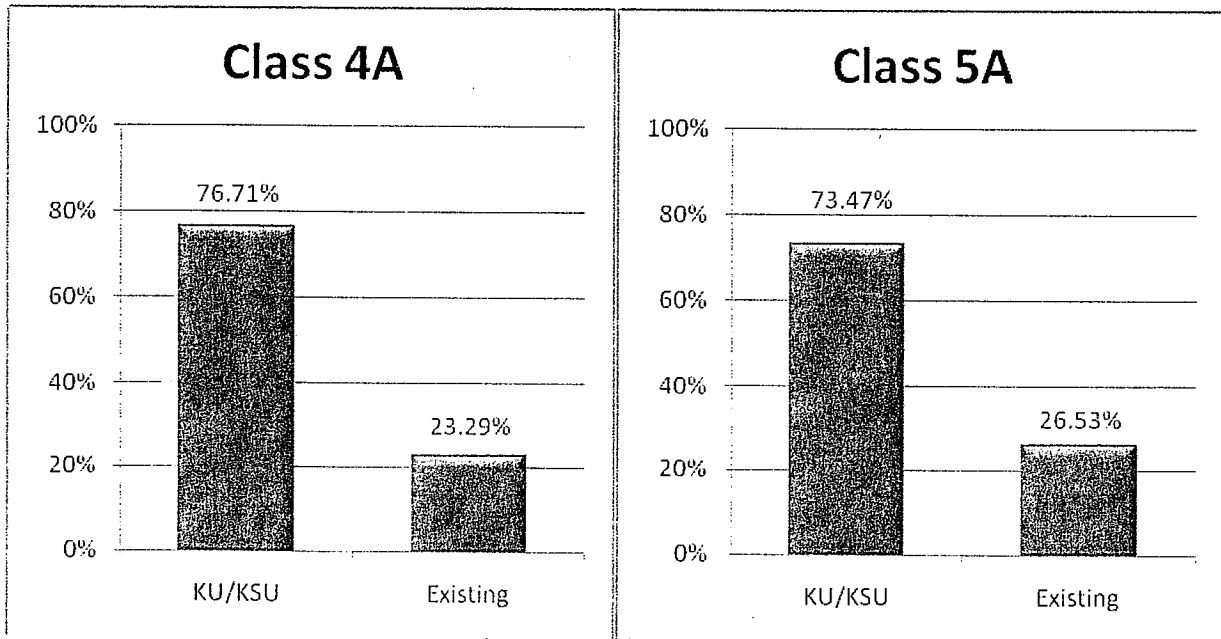
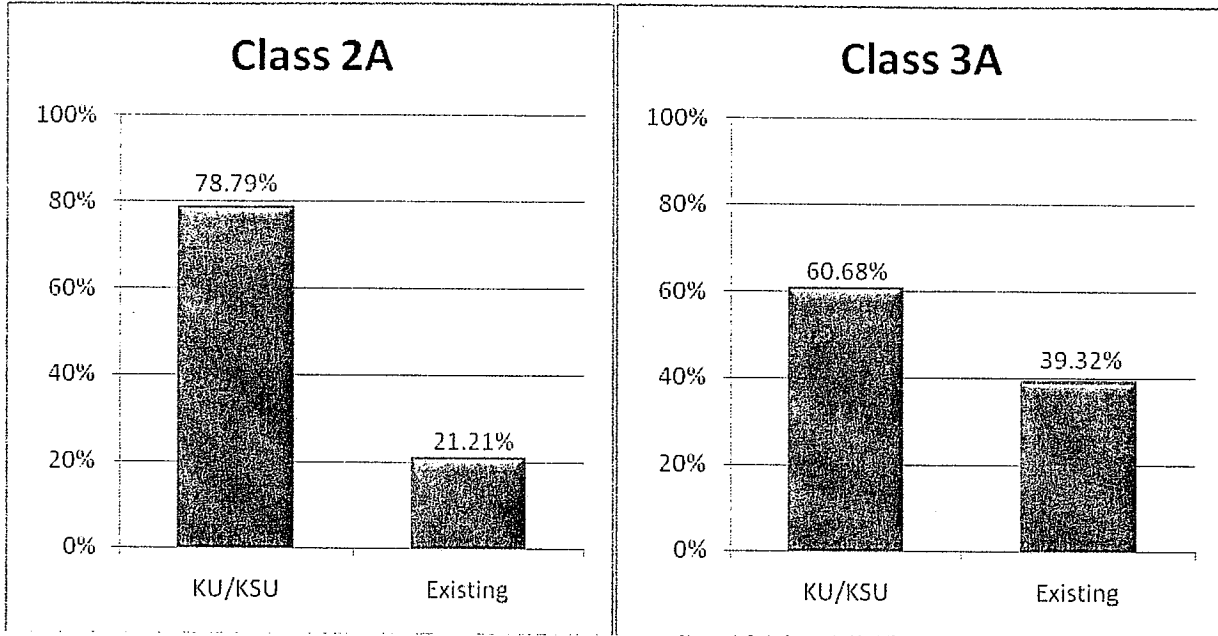
### Appendix C.

The following is potential details of how a future survey would be handled if this resolution is passed:

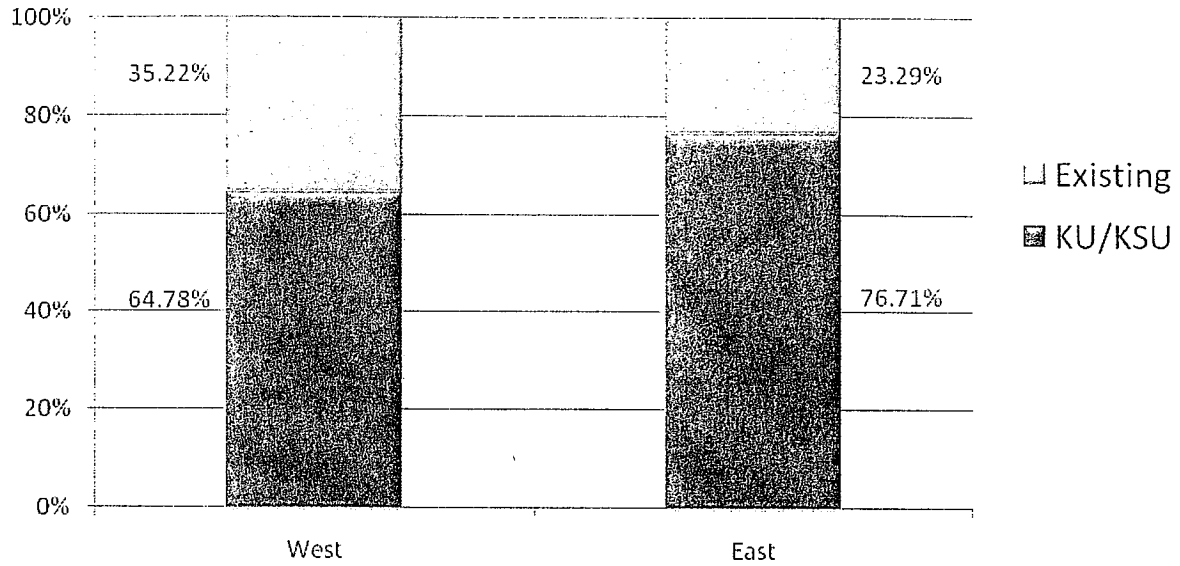
- The survey would once again target the student athletes and their parents, who we feel are most directly effected by these decisions. After all, it is most often the parents themselves who are most effected by possible ticket price increases, travel expenses, and coordinating holiday celebrations with attending their child's championship event. These are also the voices that are continually being ignored in favor of the school administrators.
- An independent market research firm would likely formulate the questions based on input from any of the following parties: citizens, the legislature, and the Activities Association.
- The size of the survey would be a minimum of between 200 and 400 respondents. According to the research firm we have been in contact with, this is the recommended size for the type of survey we are attempting to conduct in order to ensure a relatively small margin of error while keeping costs at a reasonable level. Since citizens will be responsible for the costs incurred, the size of the survey will depend on the funds available or that can be raised. The thought of a census involving all school and student athletes has been negated due to the costs incurred from such a process.
- This survey would also attempt to spread the participants across all classes and regions just as the citizens' survey did. It would involve classes 1A (11-man only) through 6A and the east/west regions divisions established by the KSHSAA.
- The schools and participants chosen would likely be determined by a random number generation process within each region and class.
- The independent research firm would contact the school boards affected and coordinate the surveys through them. This would help to ensure the greatest possibility of full participation, accuracy and unbiased validity.
- Results can be returned in several possible ways:
  - Online survey options for easy access to all participants.
  - Paper forms that could be mailed to the research firm or returned to the school board.
- Results would be tabulated by the research firm and reported back to all parties involved.
- The cost incurred by utilizing an independent research firm will be the responsibility of volunteer citizens and funds they may be able to raise in support of this cause.

Appendix D.

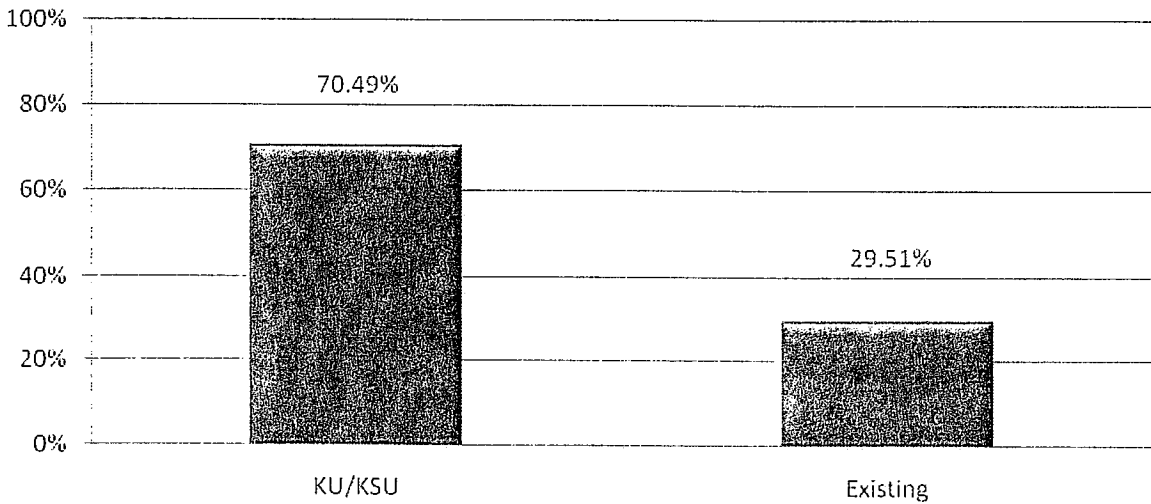
These charts are indicating the citizens' survey results broken out for each class (2A-5A) and region (east/west):



### West & East Regions - All Classes



### State of Kansas - All Classes



Hello, I am Marsha Cook, and I would like to thank you very much for allowing me this time with you today. I have lived in Kansas all of my life. I was born here in Topeka and at the age of 22 months we moved to a small town southwest of Topeka. I left small town life for four years but returned home, because I wanted my children to grow up in a small town community atmosphere, like I did. I wanted them to be able to attend a smaller school so that they would have the opportunities to participate not only in a closer teacher student academic relationship but other activities like band, FCCLA, FFA, the Big/Little program and athletics, just to name a few.

I am not saying life in a small town is perfect but as I remember it growing up, the people cared about you and your activities. It was where all activities were well attended not only by your family members, but by your neighbors and friends. Where the Vo-Ag teacher, a board member and even the school principle would be sitting right along beside you and never thought twice to whether they did or did not belong there with you. A place where achievements of a few could be celebrated by many and shared, so that others might become interested and have future great experiences. Friday night high school football for me as a very young child was running up and down the sidelines hanging on to my dad with one hand and a Carmel apple in the other.

The people I grew up watching on that football field, basketball court or in that school play, were some of my teachers. In the old days my kids would now be being taught by their kids. But over the years our schools have merged and we are becoming more diverse, with more kids, more parents, and more opportunities. Most of our educator's don't even live in our communities anymore, they commute. I know that can add a strain, as I had to commute for over 33 years to a job, since I could not find one locally. But even so the administrators in our schools see our children everyday, they know what get's them excited, and what get's them down. What helps them learn and grow. But along the way we seem to be loosing touch with each other. So that is why when a volunteer service organization I am in, the Telephone Pioneers of America, was asked by Mr. Brockus to help with a survey of high schools around the state and what the topic was, I was thrilled to get to participate. I have a son who played football and other sports as well as a daughter who participated in sports. The survey went well and the few folks I got to talk to were, for the most part positive too shall we say excited to think that their kids might get an opportunity that they did not. So when I heard that the idea to have the state championships in the large venue stadiums was shot down by the KSHSAA Board, I was shocked. The sad side of that story for me is that my son's high school football is now finished. Though they had great records both his junior and senior years, they were just shy of what they needed both times. But had they made it to state, they would have missed out on an opportunity of a lifetime by not getting to play at a large venue stadium.

Although his high school football seasons are over and his opportunity has passed, there are still other great kids in other towns who made it to state. And once again they too missed out on a chance to play at a big venue stadium. However, there could be a good ending to this story yet. We can still make a change and future players with their support group of parents', family and friends could get that chance. We should not let it pass us by yet again. The state championship high school football game is one of, if not the biggest school-related event and memories of a participating students' high school life.

I think there are two primary reasons that most Kansas citizens do not initiate feedback to the KSHSAA about this issue. The first being the existing small venues used for the championships are usually nicer than the ones the teams play at every Friday night during the regular season. Secondly, I discovered from working on the survey, most families and players do not know that large venues are even a potential option for a championship game.

The thousands of students and parents and extended family members who participate and attend the games are those most affected. Yet, none of the 305 families that were surveyed had been contacted by their school administrator about this issue. I don't expect administrators to have to get feedback on everything they do, but on a major life experience like this issue, when it is offered to them as it was in the survey results, it should be welcomed.

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In closing, we can all easily get caught up in details, and lose sight of what the focus should be. I want fairness and cooperation, participation and reconciliation between the KHSAA, the administrators, schools, parents and students. Your support of this survey could help lead to an opportunity for kids they can now only dream about. Please when you vote, remember that the large majority of educators all over the country would support this. Let the survey results, whatever they may be, and which all could trust, be a guide for everyone. Your vote for this resolution keeps the focus on what it should be. That the kids and their families come first, they are the end users. This is their chance at a memorable lifetime experience.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marsha J. Cook

I am Derek Wiedenmeyer, I support HCR 5030.

I am a Husband, transportation broker, KU graduate, 2001 Blue Valley High School graduate, and member of 1998 state championship team.

I recognize that the state game was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I played in one state game and attended two more in the last 12 years.

#### My state Experience

I remember pulling into KSU stadium and touring the facility.

The flood of excitement within myself and my teammates. The facilities were so far superior to anything I had ever been in. The weight room, the film rooms, the training rooms, and the overall size was like nothing I had ever been in before.

We saw the Powercat honor wall and wall of fame.

How inspirational and motivating it was. Knowing most people will never see it. We were sharing facilities with a premier college team and pro prospects. We were living like the guys we watched on Saturday's.

The Locker room before the game, and half time was amazing.

Nothing could compare to this. It was huge and awe inspiring. It created a whole new intensity.

The team watched Olathe North , the game ahead of us from the hill.

We were watching the game from the same place as the press. It was a view that most KSU fans will never get to watch a game from. We got to watch some of that game on that field inside the stadium in front of a crowd most of us would never be in front of again. It was an empowering feeling that only added to the excitement of the experience.

The game itself.

We were inside the bowl looking up at the huge crowd. The post game celebrations and running to the stands are memories forever.

This was my greatest experience and achievement as an athlete.

I Lettered in two high school sports, Captain of the football team my senior year, but nothing ever came close to comparing to that experience. Nothing ever had that rush.

I got to play somewhere kids dream of.

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I was a good athlete but I had physical limitations and this was the closest I ever got to being a star playing in the big game. Kids in this state dream of playing on that field and I got to.

I Coach youth sports.

I helped my Dad coach my little brother's team. I had taught some of these kids these very basics of football. When his team made it to the state finals I was so excited for these kids that I knew to experience what I had. Then I learned that the game wasn't going to be played at KU or KSU but I thought it would still be ok.

I Watched the game in Topeka.

I felt cheated as a fan.

I went to the game with excitement for the experience again. We got there before the game started but had to watch the game from some make shift bleachers that had set up behind one endzone. It was a terrible view. It was like being in the other team's high school stadium because one side was huge and the other was extremely small and hard to maneuver around. I recognize that the game isn't played there anymore, but what field in the state could represent as much as KU or KSU to kids who grew up here.

I more importantly felt cheated for the young men playing.

Players work so hard.

They have two a day workouts. They have before and after school weight lifting sessions. They studying the play books, and watch game film.

It is hard for the teams to make it.

Plenty of good teams don't make it, so those who do are special and should be rewarded as such.

Most importantly it is about the young men playing.

Many people have an opinion on how it should be, but in the end it should be whatever is the most rewarding to the young men playing. The game is for them and played by them. It's their day and they should be treated like kings.

Thank for the time, and I hope my voice helps the men playing the game in the future. Please support HCR 5030.





120 W. Ash, P.O. Box 586 • Salina, KS 67402-0586 • 785-827-9301 • fx 785-827-9758 • www.salinakansas.org

**Testimony to the Kansas House Education Committee  
February 16, 2010**

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts about the proposed survey to gauge support for moving 11-man high school football championships to the KU, KWU and WSU stadiums. Salina is opposed to such a proposal for several reasons:

***Overall, addressing this situation legislatively is unnecessary.*** The status quo allows for KSHSAA to contract with those venues and to co-locate games if that were the best format and beneficial to the championships and the venues.

Playing in a huge state university stadium has been referred to as potentially the 'chance of a lifetime' for the teams and fans. ***We contend that playing in a stadium filled with the roar of enthusiastic fans creates the better environment and makes for a much more memorable experience for everyone.*** The largest paid attendance we've experienced at a state football championship in Salina has been about 3,700. That crowd in a 45,000 seat stadium does not translate to an exciting, high energy experience. KSHSAA carefully selects sites that are appropriate in size and scope to the needs of each Class and they create the environment that is memorable for players, parents and fans.

***Hosting these events currently provides economic activity in several Kansas communities.*** The activity reflects a significant commitment by a host city. Visit Salina serves as the host entity for the 4A Championship game at Salina Stadium. The significant investment of manpower by staff and volunteers, and local funds to cover various expenses related to hosting the event are the local investments that has allowed KSHSAA to keep ticket prices steady for several years. The university stadium format will surely increase costs and manpower needs and will create unnecessary logistical challenges regarding locker room access, clearing the stadiums, etc. We do not want to see the \$225,000+ in estimated visitor spending lost from Salina, and wonder where the additional dollars will come from to utilize the university stadiums. Will that lead to higher ticket prices and potentially greater travel costs for families?

***To survey the 11-man families may seem a logical step, but we suggest that the issue may be a solution looking for a problem.*** Families involved in high school activities are usually not shy to share their thoughts about events with their administration, and in turn, with KSHSAA. KSHSAA has always taken constituency input very seriously, and continually strives to improve the 'product' wherever possible. From the standpoint of the families involved, if there was a problem with the existing championship format, it would be evident.

Thank you for your service to Kansas and for the opportunity to comment.

Dennis Lauver  
President/CEO Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

Sylvia Rice  
Director, Visit Salina

Right place. Right reason. Right now.

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 5

**Janet Henning**

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**From:** Samantha Angell [samanthaangell@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2010 10:44 AM  
**To:** Janet Henning  
**Subject:** HCR 5030

Dear Ms. Henning,

Please pass this email on to the members of the House Education Committee. I understand there is a hearing on this measure scheduled for February 16, 2009.

I am writing as a resident of Salina, and a member of the Salina City Commission. I want to voice my opposition to passage of this measure. Similar proposals have been offered in the past and were, rightly, defeated.

There is no need to remove the economic impact of these championship games from Hays, Hutchinson, Emporia and Topeka; while at the same time increasing the travel costs of the students, athletes, families, and fans that travel to support their local high school teams. The cities that host these events have done so successfully, and there is no need nor demand from the public to consider changing the venues.

Please vote no on HCR 5030. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Samantha P. Angell  
ACHTERBERG & ANGELL  
118-B S. 7th; P.O. Box 1697  
Salina, Kansas 67402-1697  
(785) 820-9400  
Fax: (785) 820-9444

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House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 6

Janet Henning

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**From:** Galen Unruh [gunruh@bawarriors.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2010 4:22 PM  
**To:** Clay Aurand; Barbara Bollier; Barbara Craft; Geraldine Flaharty; Lana Gordon; Don Hill; Deena Horst; Steve Huebert; Judith Loganbill; Ann Mah; Melvin Neufeld; Bill Otto; Shirley Palmer; Eber Phelps; Charles Roth; Ed Trimmer; Jene Vickrey; Valdenia Winn  
**Subject:** Resolution No. 5030

Dear House Education Committee Memeber

I would like to thank you for the work that you do as a representative to the house in Kansas. My name is Galen Unruh and I am the principal and athletic director at Berean Academy. Berean Academy is a full member of The Kansas State High School Activities Association. (KSHSAA)

I would like to direct your attention to House Concurrent Resolution No. 5030. Rep Kinzer and Merrick are requesting a state wide survery to gauge the interest in utilizing the KU and KSU for the State football playoffs every other year.

These are my concerns with this issue.

1. KSHSAA is an organization that is governed by its member schools. KSHSAA has a process by which schools can change its rules and policies. This process has been used, resulting in some of the major changes which have happened concerning coach-athlete summer contact in recent years. The Legislators of Kansas have many pressing issues with which to deal, but this is not one of them. Please leave the running of KSHSAA to its member schools.
2. KSHSAA has for the last three years given attention to this very concern through repeated hearings and statewide discussions. Throughout these discussions, KSHSAA Member schools have NOT pressed for changes to our current format or how venues or sites are chosen. If this is such a burning question among the people of Kansas, why are they not following the process of communicating through the schools to the Association?
3. In this time of extremely tight finances, I find it very distressing that the House would consider using state money to survey Kansas citizens. This issue is a KSHSAA issue that has been taken before the members of our organization. Who are satisfied with the procedures.

In light of these concerns I would ask that you vote against resolution No. 5030. Let the member schools of KSHSAA make the decisions that make sense for the schools of Kansas!

Galen Unruh  
Principal/Activities Director  
Berean Academy  
[gunruh@bawarriors.com](mailto:gunruh@bawarriors.com)  
316-799-2211  
Fax - 316-799-2601

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 7

## Janet Henning

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**From:** Michael Kastle [kastlem@mail.usd245ks.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2010 10:26 AM  
**To:** Clay Aurand  
**Subject:** School Finance and HCR5030

Gentlemen: Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I am the superintendent and principal of all of the schools in USD 245, LeRoy-Gridley. Mr. Otto is our representative and I request that you all consider the implications of more cuts to education now and in the future. We in USD 245 have made major changes in the administration of our district over the past few years and have made changes in all areas to continue to offer a quality education to our students while continuing to receive less in funding each year.

A part of the less funding is a decrease in enrollment but then this year hit us and we, along with most school districts in the state are in a world of hurt. Further cuts will cause us to lower the quality of education in our district and / or cause the closure of buildings and possibly of the district. Neither one of these options are in the best interest of the students of our school system.

I urge you to continue to support public education and make every effort to return funding to an amount that will ensure that EVERY student in our state has the opportunity to receive a quality education. In my mind that is back to the area of \$4400 - 4800 per student without changes in weighting.

I would also like to address the Concurrent Resolution 5030 that I understand will be heard on Tuesday. I feel that we have much bigger fish to fry in our state to be worried about where 11-man football championships are played. Over the past two or three years this issue has been discussed at the KSHSAA Executive Board meetings, at the KIAAA (Athletic Directors Association) annual meeting, and at meetings with school administrators throughout the state. In every instance the participants have voiced support for holding the state championships at the venues currently being used. To place a class 1A-2A championship game in a stadium that will hold upwards of 50,000 fans and have about 3,000 in the seats does not give the athlete a sense of being in front of a big audience, but place those same 3,000 fans in a stadium that holds 5,000 and you have that atmosphere that makes for excitement.

In today's Capital - Journal Representative Aurand was attributed with saying that in the Montoy case that "he hopes that the courts will stay out of the case and leave funding questions up to lawmakers." I would agree with that statement but would then add this thought to the HCR5030 issue: "I would hope that the lawmakers would stay out of the issue and leave finding locations for state championships up to the KSHSAA."

The schools of Kansas have spoken on numerous occasions and continue to like what is happening with high school activities. Please spend your efforts on something that is truly important to ALL Kansas students and not what appears to be important to a SMALL group (my understanding is two or three people).

If at anytime you would like more information from USD 245 concerning our issues and how we are trying to cope, please contact me. I would be happy to make the effort to testify if needed on these or other issues that directly affect the students in Kansas schools.

Again, thank you for your time and willingness to serve the people of the great state of Kansas.

MK

Mike Kastle, Superintendent USD 245 LeRoy-Gridley  
Principal Southern Coffey County HS, Principal Southern Coffey County Middle School  
Principal LeRoy Elementary School, Principal Gridley Elementary School

Mike Kastle, supt USD 245 LeRoy-Gridley  
Principal Southern Coffey County HS

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 8

Janet Henning

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**From:** Rod Wittmer [rwittmer@usd504.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2010 5:00 PM  
**To:** rproehl@labettebank.com; Richard Proehl; Clay Aurand  
**Cc:** TRL AD's (09-10); TRL Principals (09-10); Terry Karlin; Tracy Smith; Gary Musselman  
**Subject:** House Concurrent Resolution 5030

Representative Proehl and Representative Aurand:

As the Principal of Oswego High School, an officer of the Three Rivers League, and a member of the Kansas State High School Activities Association Board of Directors, I am concerned with the amount of attention that is being directed towards the location of our State Championship football games. I can assure you that each time over the last several years when this topic has come up, the member schools and leagues of the KSHSAA has spent a considerable amount of discussion on the matter. Each time the member schools have expressed a desire to keep the State Championship games in venues that offer the student athlete a great game day atmosphere and not a 1/8 filled stadium.

I had the experience of playing in the Kansas Shrine Bowl that was held at KSU. I have watched other Shrine Bowl's at Fort Hays, Emporia, and Pittsburg. In each instance the stadiums at Fort Hays, Emporia, and Pittsburg provided a better atmosphere and experience for the players and fans. The Shrine Bowl Executive Committee could see the benefit of playing their games in stadiums that they could fill. Why can the Kansas Legislature not see it.

Each member school has a voice in the democratic process that is the KSHSAA. We have spoken by our vote many times. I certainly believe that the members of the Kansas Legislature have more pressing issues during these financial times.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-----  
Rod Wittmer, Principal  
Oswego High School  
1501 Tomahawk Trail  
Oswego, KS 67356  
Work (620) 795-2125  
Fax (620) 795-2130  
[rwittmer@usd504.org](mailto:rwittmer@usd504.org)

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 9

## Janet Henning

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**From:** Dennis Post [PostD@rockcreekschools.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2010 9:10 AM  
**To:** Clay Aurand  
**Cc:** Darrel Stufflebeam  
**Subject:** House Concurrent Resolution 5030

I understand that **House Concurrent Resolution 5030** will be discussed in your committee next week. In a time when our schools and our state are in dire financial situations, is this really a pressing issue? Why would your committee choose to debate where and when high school football games are being played when the education system in Kansas is falling in disrepair? As a Kansan and an educator, please find the direction to deal with the real issues of our state and not the whims of those who think our schools exist to sponsor athletic teams.

Dennis Post, Principal  
Rock Creek Jr/Sr High School  
9355 Flush Road St George, KS 66535  
phone: 785-494-8591 fax:785-494-8595

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand. - Confucius

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 10

**Janet Henning**

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**From:** Glenn McFall [mcfallg@usd226.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2010 2:08 PM  
**To:** Clay Aurand  
**Subject:** Re: House Concurrent Resolution 5030

Mr. Aurand

I would like to express my negative feelings about the HCR 5030.

One of the reasons stated for the proposal is that it would be a "special reward for students". The KSHSAA did try to use the K-State and Wichita State stadiums for a while. (KU reportedly wouldn't let their stadium be used.) There were 2 games at one place and 3 games at the other, if I remember correctly. The stadiums were only one-fourth full at most and the players and fans alike felt that it was like being in a ghost town. Using locations like Fort Hays State and Emporia State make for a more special atmosphere for the participating schools and communities because you have a full house and it is easier to sense the specialness of the day.

Another argument being put forth is that other states do it. I believe most people would agree that Texas could possibly be the most football crazy state in the country. Yes, they use major facilities. No they don't have more than one class at a location except in the earlier rounds, not the State Championship round. Only the 5A schools in Texas are guaranteed the use of the big stadium for the state championship games. The big stadiums are located in metropolitan areas with more than a million people in very close driving distance. We don't have those population areas in Kansas.

The existing sites have done a tremendous job of hosting these events. If they weren't, I would probably join the voices calling for change. Until that time we adults need to put our egos in check and continue to do what is in the kids' best interest, not what we think we would like to see.

Thank you for letting me express my opinions.

--  
Glenn McFall, Athletic Director  
Meade HS

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 11

Janet Henning

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**From:** Jack Koehn [jkoehn@usd419.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2010 9:04 AM  
**To:** Clay Aurand  
**Subject:** Concurrent Resolution 5030

Representative Aurand:

I am e-mailing you to voice my opposition to **Concurrent Resolution 5030**.

- 1) If the member schools wanted to change the football venues they have every avenue available to them to do so. This is a private organization ran by its members. Why does "big" government think they can or should interfere with this structure.
- 2) In a time where schools are being forced to make huge cuts into educational programs why would the State of Kansas spend money on a survey to "football players families" in an effort to appease a select few. Excuse me, a select "two". I would think there might be bigger problems to solve.
- 3) If the survey is paid for by someone else....what is to insure that it is impartial? It is just a bad idea.

To be honest, I just shake my head and wonder what in the world is going on.....has Topeka turned into Washington D.C. This resolution is not needed, it is not wanted by schools and is a waste of time and money. Please get back to the work of finding additional dollars so we can keep important programs, including athletics, that help the students of our state.

Thank you for listening.

Jack

Jack Koehn  
Principal  
Canton-Galva High School  
Canton-Galva USD 419  
506 S. Kansas Ave  
Canton, KS 67428  
620-628-4401  
[jkoehn@usd419.org](mailto:jkoehn@usd419.org)

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 12



## Janet Henning

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**From:** Lamar Bergsten [lbergsten@st-tel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2010 4:42 PM  
**To:** Clay Aurand; Deena Horst; Melvin Neufeld; Bob Brookens  
**Subject:** House Concurrent Resolution 5030

2010 House Education Committee members,

I would really question the necessity of house resolution 5030 concerning state football sites. I feel that this type of action undermines the status of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, which is a private, self-governing association of member schools.

Do Kansas schools really want to disrupt the Thanksgiving holiday more than it already is? Playing the state championship games on Friday and Saturday will certainly change the week of preparation for school teams, bands, fans, coaches, and administration.

Is this really an issue that the Kansas house needs to spend time on??? Especially with the greater financial problems facing our public school systems.

Thanks

Lamar Bergsten  
USD 275 Athletic Director

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The message was checked by ESET Smart Security.

<http://www.eset.com>

**Janet Henning**

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**From:** Bill Walker [bwalker@usd107.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2010 3:19 PM  
**To:** Clay Aurand; Deena Horst  
**Subject:** input

Legislators -

I am writing in support of the KSHSAA as it represents the membership of Kansas schools in determining locations for state championships.

Having been a part of Scott City's trip to the University of Kansas for 4A the state championship football game, I know what it costs to do so. Other venues are certain distances from certain communities, but the expense and time add up rapidly.

There is no way to satisfy every community, and there is no way to make everything "fair" for every community. Please leave this decision to the schools who make up the KSHSAA.

Respectfully,

Bill K. Walker  
USD 107 Rock Hills

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 14

## Janet Henning

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**From:** Tracy Smith [trsmith@uniontown235.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2010 2:50 PM  
**To:** Clay Aurand; billcotto@yahoo.com; repalmer1862@sbcglobal.net  
**Cc:** Gary Musselman; Rockhold 378; Rod Wittmer  
**Subject:** House Concurrent Resolution 5030

Representatives Aurand, Otto & Palmer:

Please receive this communication as a letter of concern pertaining to the upcoming hearings on #5030.

As an Administrator for USD #235-Uniontown, I had the honor of serving on the KSHSAA Board of Directors for the terms of 2003-2009. Specifically, I was the elected President of the Executive Board for KSHSAA when this request to look into one site Championship Football games was presented.

With this, I feel it necessary to voice my opinion and ask questions to the Committee ... of why?

This topic was first presented to my Board and I assure you that complete attention was given to the idea. The KSHSAA is an organization of 'member' schools across Kansas as you know. As direct line professional's, we always have what is best for the kids of Kansas in our minds. Without question!

This body (Board of Directors) is elected by each competitive league in Kansas, just as you are, to make decisions, establish policy and move Kansas to a betterment of any other state. My point being, as we (Executive Board) heard the proposal, we advanced it to the KIAAA for their deliberations and discussion on the idea. To my knowledge, the Athletic Directors of the KIAAA, again, people who are front line with Kansas athletes, turn the proposal down.

Each time, the proposal has been brought up, to any group that works with our children, it just did not receive enough interest to consider it any further! I find it quite concerning that, to my knowledge, two individuals can keep your attention on Tuesday for the hearings, let enough, three (3) years of trying. I tell the children I supervise, 'no means no'.

As I understand in the communications that I continue to receive on this topic, although I have served my term in office, additional questions arise and I feel it imperative to bring these to your attention.

A) There will be mention of a survey. I find it interesting that we have 105 counties in Kansas, and over 300 High Schools, but the survey references 32 families? Goodness.

B) What makes this survey valid? As a school administrator, surveys are used quite often. Data can be derived in how you perceive it. Who's accountable?

C) Please don't even mention the use of a Legislative Post Audit! As a patron, I want my tax dollars used for better purposes! Kansas schools have already...3 times, said no thank-you to one site Championship Football.

D) Has this group 'surveyed' the communities that currently host each of the KSHSAA State Events. I seriously doubt they want to loose the economic revenue that is brought to those communities during Championship week-end!

E) School officials are constantly concerned with accommodating parents/patrons and our children. Championship week-end, not only affects the Football team, but cheerleaders, pep bands, student body pep squads, coaches, administrators, teachers, bus drivers...get the picture? It's Thanksgiving.

As I've had the privilege of traveling across our state to watch 'full house' crowds with dead defying roars...this is what makes it memorable!  
As I watch the state of Missouri play their games in a 'professional' stadium, even on T.V., I think it is quite sad, that 2,000 people, on each side, sporadically fill a 75,000 seat stadium.

As a 15 year former High School Football coach, the math just doesn't work to host numerous schools at one site. The pre-game, prep, 'our field' mentality just won't exist. But I won't go there. I don't coach anymore. I trust my coaches, so I ask them. Obviously we were not one of the 32 surveyed!

I sincerely thank you for reading this, and understanding my concerns. Without question, if you would like, I would not hesitate to speak to you personally, or the Committee, but unfortunately I feel that I have more important duties, actually 250 of them, my kids, that need my full attention on Tuesday.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracy B. Smith  
Principal  
USD #235 - Uniontown  
KSHSAA Executive President 2007-08

Home:  
4561 West Virginia Rd.  
Moran, KS

Office: 620-756-4335  
Home: 620-439-5571

## Janet Henning

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**From:** Clay Aurand  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2010 7:08 AM  
**To:** Janet Henning  
**Subject:** FW: HCR-5030

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**From:** Lawrence, Johnny [mailto:lawrenj@usd413.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 15, 2010 5:20 PM  
**To:** Clay Aurand  
**Subject:** HCR-5030

Dear Sir,

This e-mail is in regard to the HCR 5030 bill which will be debated tomorrow in the House Education Committee. Surely our legislators can find a better use of their time than to debate where High School Football games should be hosted. Our legislators need to discuss real issues, such as school finance, taxes, social services, and economic development to mention a few.

The discussion and hosting of football games should be left at the local level of the KSHSAA organization and their representatives. The KSHSAA organization does a great job of representing school districts. Their commitment to student activities and athletics is second to none and continue to support all students across the state. If this bill is passed, many local communities will be economically impacted by this decision. Communities included would be Fort Hays State University, Emporia State University, Washburn University and Pittsburg State University. Where is the equality in regard to these communities being able to host a State Football Game?

Please remove the HCR 5030 Bill and concentrate on the real issues at hand. Please allow the KSHSAA organization to perform their job without any interference from local politicians. Please include this e-mail as written testimony for the hearing in regard to the bill discussion on HCR 5030.

Sincerely,

John Lawrence  
Chanute,KS

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 16

**Janet Henning**

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**From:** Jackie Cook [Jackie.Cook@usd428.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 15, 2010 1:14 PM  
**To:** Clay Aurand; Deena Horst  
**Subject:** HCR5030

Dear Mr. Aurand and Mrs. Horst:

As a concerned member of the KSHSAA Board of Directors, I wish to let you know of my opposition to the House Bill HCR5030. We work very hard every year representing coaches, schools, administrators, and students of Kansas schools in determining what is in the best interest of our kids concerning playoff locals and regulations. Please do not allow this bill to pass. The KSHSAA should be the sole governing body for all activities and athletics in the State of Kansas for the benefit of all. I hope you will consider this when voting on this bill.

Thank you,  
Jackie Engle-Cook  
Great Bend, KS  
Kansas Coaches Association Representative of the KSHSAA Board of Directors

**Janet Henning**

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**From:** Mike Adams [mikeadams@usd379.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 15, 2010 1:15 PM  
**To:** Clay Aurand  
**Subject:** HCR 5030

Dear Mr. Aurand,

Tomorrow the House Education Committee will hold a hearing to consider HCR 5030. As a member of the KSHSAA Board of Directors I need to voice several concerns about this resolution. The current format for KSHSAA football championships works very well for member schools, athletes, parents, and community supporters. Holding the games at smaller but very nice facilities across the state provides financial benefits to those host communities. The smaller stadiums that are used provide the right type of atmosphere for a state championship game. The larger venues at KU, KSU, and WSU cannot match that type of atmosphere. The KSHSAA Board of Directors and its member schools feel we have a system that works very well for its member schools.

During a time in which the state is facing a crisis in funding K-12 education I am disappointed that the House Education Committee would spend valuable time holding a hearing about how the activities association runs football championships. It would seem that your focus should be on how to continue funding K-12 education for the students in our great state.

Respectfully,

Mike Adams, Clay Center Community High School Member of KSHSAA Board of Directors

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 18

**Janet Henning**

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**From:** Bechard, Richard [RBechard@bluevalleyk12.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 15, 2010 12:37 PM  
**To:** Clay Aurand  
**Subject:** 5030

Dear Mr. Aurand,

I understand that House Concurrent Resolution 5030 will be discussed in your committee on Tuesday, February 16, 2010. Blue Valley Schools in Overland Park, Kansas is opposed to Resolution 5030.

As the Director of Student Activities for Blue Valley Schools I took the question of where high school football championships should be played to the members of the Kansas Athletic Directors Association (KIAAA) last March. Blue Valley Schools were in support of games being played every other year at KU and K-State. It was voted down soundly by the athletic directors across the state of Kansas. This issue was also presented to our Executive Board at the KSHSAA on more than one occasion and was voted down by those who represent the member schools. One can be disappointed on these outcomes but one can not be disappointed on the fairness of the procedure in place for rule and policy change within the structure of the KSHSAA. There is a mechanism in place for rule and policy change that is fair and just. This issue should be decided within the governing structure of the KSHSAA, as it has been. Blue Valley Schools supports that system in place. We do not support legislative intervention in KSHSAA policy and thus we do not support 5030.

No doubt your position on the House Education Committee is overwhelming especially at a time of such financial shortage that is unparalleled in our state. Your committee has far more important issues to deal with than to involve itself in decisions that are best made by the KSHSAA member schools which reflect their wishes of their coaches, athletes and administrators. Thank You.

Respectfully Yours,

Richard Bechard  
Director of Student Activities  
Blue Valley Schools

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Blue Valley Schools - Education Beyond Expectations  
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House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 19



**Janet Henning**

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**From:** David Dennis [dtdennis@swbell.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 15, 2010 2:34 PM  
**To:** Clay Aurand; Deena Horst; Valdenia Winn; Barbara Bollier; Bob Brookens; Lana Gordon; Barbara Craft; Don Hill; Steve Huebert; Melvin Neufeld; Bill Otto; Charles Roth; Sheryl Spalding; Jene Vickrey; Marti Crow; Geraldine Flaharty; Judith Loganbill; Ann Mah; Shirley Palmer; Eber Phelps; Ed Trimmer  
**Cc:** Gary Musselman  
**Subject:** HCR 5030

Members of the House of Representatives Education Committee:

I understand that your committee is going to hear HCR 5030 dealing with where the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHAA) holds their championships. As a member of the Kansas State Board of Education, a board member of the KSHAA, the announcer for home games for Wichita High School North, and as an educator, I strongly oppose legislative action being taken on this issue. We have addressed the issue and feel that the members of the KSHAA are the ones who should determine championship locations along with the multitude of other decisions that need to be made to support activities across the state of Kansas. I do not believe it is in the best interest of our high school activities for our legislature to take action to override the decisions of the KSHAA board.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

David Dennis

Kansas State Board of Education, District 10

Colonel, United States Air Force (Retired)

Board of the Kansas State High School Activities Association

Commissioner, Wichita/Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission  
Data Leader, Wichita High School North

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 20

Testimony before the  
House of Representatives – Education Committee (HCR 5030)

Gary Musselman, Executive Director  
On behalf of the  
Kansas State High School Activities Association  
February 16, 2010

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State High School Activities Association is opposed to the adoption of HCR 5030. As a private association of member schools, the governance of the KSHSAA is vested in the members of the Board of Directors and Executive Board, who serve as the elected representatives of the 776 member schools.

In accordance with statute, the KSHSAA reports to the Kansas State Board of Education. Given that responsibility we respectfully submit a letter of February 11, 2010 signed by Sue Storm, Legislative Coordinator and State Board of Education Member from District 2, Johnson County. Janet Waugh, Chair of the Kansas State Board of Education has served the last two years on the KSHSAA Executive Board and Board of Directors. On two separate occasions Ms. Waugh has heard the presentation of the proponents of this resolution.

For the last three years, TWO individuals not affiliated with a member school, have brought this issue before the KSHSAA Executive Board on repeated occasions. At three Executive Board meetings, the KSHSAA granted the opportunity for Mr. Brockus and Mr. Sherman to present their information. In total, they have had more than three hours of time on this issue before the KSHSAA Executive Board. While the Board has respectfully listened to the presentation and asked for input from school athletic directors, they have not made changes to the format and venues of KSHSAA state football championships as there has been little to no support from the member schools to do so.

In March of 2008, the Executive Board directed further discussion on the proposal via the annual meeting of the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. High School athletic directors attending this convention voted 86 - 10 in support of the current championship format and venues. In March 2009, at the request of Mr. Brockus, the district Athletic Director of Blue Valley USD #229, again presented the issue to the KIAAA membership at their annual meeting. The question presented was, "Should the KSHSAA change their practice of assigning 11 man state championship football games at a variety of locations with single games, to multiple games at one site using either Kansas University or Kansas State University?" The vote was 3 Yes 65 No.

While proponents make a point of comparing Kansas' football championship format to other states across the nation, it should be noted each state's high school athletic/activity association is unique in it's' structure, governance, history and culture. The National Federation of State High School Associations as the governing body of high school sports has no authority or requirement of standardized rules, activities, seasons or championship formats. Each state association is unique and answers to the will of its member schools.

In recent years, the availability of artificial turf on numerous college facilities has created opportunities for state championship games to be played in college stadiums more appropriate to the size of our crowds. (2009 state attendance at the five 11 man games totaled 16,395) (11,018 adults & 5,377 students). The operational expenses at these venues are more in line with revenues from these events. Managing costs by use of stadiums favored by our member schools, has enabled the KSHSAA to maintain the lowest ticket price in the nation at \$5 students and \$6 adults. These prices have remained unchanged since 1999, which is a service to the people of Kansas. The KSHSAA has not ruled out possible future use of KU or KSU stadiums. It has simply acted on the wishes of its member schools by using more appropriately sized facilities.

In closing, the KSHSAA respectfully requests support for its ability to make operational decisions about its programs and services without intervention by the Kansas Legislature. One can envision a myriad of issues that will follow if legislators choose to become involved in the day to day operation of the KSHSAA. Thank you for your consideration.

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 21

# Kansas State Board of Education

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Kathy Martin  
District 6

Kenneth Willard  
District 7

Walt Chappell  
District 8

Jana Shaver  
District 9

David Dennis  
District 10

February 11, 2010

Mr. Gary Musselman, Exec. Director  
Kansas State High School Activities Association  
601 S. W. Commerce Place  
Box 495  
Topeka, Kansas 66601

Dear Mr. Musselman:

The State Board of Education spent considerable time discussing HCR 5030 at its February meeting. It was the State Board's consensus that the location of the 11-man high school football championships should be determined by the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

The KSHSAA has an Executive Board and Board of Directors that represent their membership. Members of the State Board agreed that the location for such activities should be left to the KSHSAA and is not a legislative matter.

In summary, the State Board of Education opposes HCR 5030.

Sincerely,

*Sue Storm*

Sue Storm  
Legislative Coordinator

DMD:SS:tjm

h:leg:Musselman—5030—5-11-10

21-2

February 8, 2010

Rep. Mike O'Neal  
House of Representatives  
104<sup>th</sup> District  
Topeka, KS

Representative O'Neal,

I wanted to make contact with you regarding HR #5030. As I am sure you are aware, the resolution deals with the hosting of State Football games at Kansas State, the University of Kansas and Wichita State University. I have several points that I would like to address regarding this issue.

First of all, the KSHSAA member schools are not asking for this change. In two separate years, the issue has been brought before the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (KIAAA) and been soundly defeated. In 2008 the vote was 86-10 against and in 2009 the vote was 65-3 against. The two men that have championed this cause (Gary Brokus and Anthony Sherman) have been given an audience at the KSHSAA Executive Board twice. The change is not a change that the member schools of the KSHSAA are interested in making at this time.

Second, the change to a single site would mean that the current hosts would no longer have the opportunity. This would mean schools like Emporia State, Washburn and Fort Hays would lose the economic impact that the games bring to their schools and communities. Hutchinson Community College and Newton have served as hosts for a few years and the communities have benefited from this. The current sites "fit" the schools more appropriately. Playing in a packed house with standing room only is an amazing atmosphere. In my experience at Liberal and at Hutchinson High School, I have taken teams to KU and KSU. While the fans were excited to be there, the stadium swallowed them up.

Lastly, I would say that this resolution comes at a time when the focus of our elected officials should be on more important issues. Where the KSHSAA chooses to play its championship games is important but not when you look at the big picture and the issues that are affecting our state. To spend valuable time and resources on this issue would seem ridiculous, given the amount of time it has been given by the KSHSAA, KIAAA and the member schools of Kansas. The issue is being brought to you because these two gentlemen didn't like the answer they were given after careful consideration by the member schools.

I appreciate your service to Kansas. I would be happy to visit with you more about this issue if you feel the need. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Eric Armstrong, CAA

President, KSHSAA  
President, KIAAA

House Education Committee  
Date 2-16-10  
Attachment # 22