



Kansas Press Association, Inc.

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Date: March 13, 2023

To: House Education Committee

From: Emily Bradbury, Executive Director of the Kansas Press Association

RE: Written Testimony on SB 13 - Proponent

Chairman Thomas and members of the Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of the 190 Kansas publications that are members of the Kansas Press Association. We write to support SB 13 alongside our colleagues at the Kansas Association of Broadcasters.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) enjoys an exclusive streaming partnership with the Kansas State High School Athletics Association (KSHSAA) for post-season games. In more recent years, NFHS has targeted member schools for exclusive rights to stream or broadcast their games. We are not opposed to local schools having control over choosing their broadcasting partners. We are simply asking them to be allowed to do so for post-season competitions.

As of today, NFHS has the first right of refusal to stream championship games. There have been instances when NFHS chose not to stream a competition and other providers were prevented from streaming the event due to the exclusivity contract with KSHSAA. This meant family and friends who could not attend could not watch their local sports team which was paid for with their tax dollars.

We believe the NFHS exclusive agreement with KSHSAA takes away local control and revenue from local, Kansas businesses. NFHS exclusivity clauses impede local companies from earning revenue to help support and serve their communities. Many local businesses make great efforts to cover even the smallest of activities and competitions in their communities. We believe they should be allowed to cover the biggest as well.

We also encourage the committee to expand the language of SB 13 to prevent exclusivity for the regular season as well (i.e. visiting team streaming rights, etc).

I appreciate your time and consideration.