

Proponent Testimony of Senate Bill 13
For the Senate Education Committee
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Chair Bumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for providing me the opportunity to submit proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 13.

Small town Kansans love their junior and high school sports. Our schools lie at the heart of the communities they serve. Our schools are not only educating our next generation of citizens and leaders, our schools also serve as a place where we congregate, where people from every part of town and from all walks of life come together as one. Our schools belong to all of us in a small community regardless of whether we have a child that attends the school or not. Our school athletic events provide a great deal of fuel for this communality.

Live streaming our school sporting events has provided yet another means of engaging members of our community who are simply unable to travel, for a variety of reasons, to attend the event in person. We have member schools in our league that are 2 and 2½ hours away. Some people are unable to attend because of health reasons - their own or a family member. Some have work obligations and others, unfortunately, simply cannot absorb the expense of traveling to the events. Since our school started live streaming its sporting events, the engagement of a wider sector of our community has been quite visible. Live streaming our school sports has provided many members of our community access to these activities they would not otherwise have – an opportunity to feel they are an active fan and booster of the school. That sense of community involvement is so dynamic and important to them and our schools. That is the reason I jumped at the chance to participate as a sponsor of school's live streamed sports events. I am certain I have not received a single new client from sponsoring these events, but I know it has helped provide access to our school's sporting events to members of the community that would have to wait and read about it in the local newspaper or hear stories about it at the coffee shop.

Live streaming these events not only benefit our local community members but others who no longer live in the community but maintain a tie, either as a past resident or a relative of a current resident. My brother, a 1976 graduate, has not lived in Tribune for a number of years and has no children or grandchildren attending the schools. Yet, he has relished the opportunity to hop on his computer and watch the Jackrabbit sporting events from several hundred miles away. It has given him the feeling of remaining a part of the community. Moreover, think of all those grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings who live all over the country who are now able to jump on the computer on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings and watch their loved ones participate in high school sports that would never have the opportunity without live streaming options being open and available to all willing to provide it.

Sadly, KSHSAA doesn't recognize the importance of live streaming school sporting

events – or at least the importance of making that option truly accessible to everyone. No, instead, KSHSAA recognizes the importance of using live streaming sporting events as a source of income to it. KSHSAA's exclusive arrangement with NFHS freezes out many people who are simply unable to pay the monthly fee to have a membership and, thus, access to NFHS. So while live streaming high school sporting events should be something that makes these sporting events more accessible to the public, KSHSAA's arrangement with NFHS makes live streamed high school sports less accessible. How can this be good for our students, schools and communities? Is this putting our student athletes first? No, not at all.

Our students and their families and friends deserve every opportunity to experience these sporting events together, especially when they cannot be there in person. Please make sure that families and fans are able to stay connected to these events if they cannot make it to the game. In today's time of advanced technology and public schools, non-exclusive live streaming access makes the only sense.

In western Kansas, particularly the northwest sector, have had the benefit of Open Spaces Sports who has been live streaming our high school sports activities free of charge to the public for over 10 years. This has been vital to our small town, the school and its student athletes. Last Spring, when our boys basketball team made its run to a State Championship, many supporters of the Jackrabbits were shocked to find out that Open Spaces could not live stream the post season games because of KSHSAA's exclusive arrangement with NFHS. Some people simply could not afford to pay the monthly membership fee to NFHS. Others who did, with the intention of canceling the membership after the post season was over, forgot to take the extra steps to cancel the membership and continued to have the monthly fee charged to their bank account or credit card for several months. I know, I was one of them and I have learned there were many others.

SB 13 so important as it emphasizes the need to keep access to our high school sports open to the public and not give **exclusive** live streaming rights to entities outside of our communities and State. Keep access to these events open to the public – our schools belong to the public, to our communities, and to our citizens. In fact, I would love to see an amendment to SB 13 to be more like Oklahoma's High School Sports Broadcasting Fairness Act (SB 302) which gives visiting teams the same rights as the home team to video stream the sporting events as is already provided for radio and television broadcasts. I would implore you to not only approve SB 13, butn consider an amendment to broaden SB 13 so that it applies not only to post season events but all events throughout the regular season for visiting teams as well.

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration of this important measure.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles F. Moser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles F. Moser