

Proponent Testimony of SB 13
For the Senate Education Committee
January 23, 2023
Marty Melia
Retired Radio and Television Broadcaster

Chair Baumgardner and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of Senate Bill 13, on behalf of Kansas Streaming and Broadcast companies.

My name is Marty Melia. I am a retired Radio and Television Broadcaster from Goodland, Kansas. My family operated and/or owned the radio stations in Goodland for nearly 50 years.

I am a past Chairman of the board of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, and served on the KAB Board for 14 years. My father, Kay Melia also served on the KAB Board and was a past Chairman as well in the 60s and 70s.

I am writing this testimony in support of SB 13. I believe that sports streaming entities as well as over the air broadcasters who stream sports should be allowed to cover the local and regional teams they follow, at schools wherever they may play, not just during the regular sports season, but on into and through post-season play, including championship games,

This would include longtime streaming companies in Kansas like Open Spaces Sports, as well as over the air radio broadcasters who stream such as the Eagle Radio group, and many others.

In these modern times, and especially since the covid pandemic began, it's understandable that more schools and their team's fans are wanting to have video streaming available to them, whether they are local or watching around the country.

What is unfortunate is that some schools who do not have local broadcast coverage available, or the ability to do their own in house video and audio production, must sign contracts with certain entities to get just minimal quality broadcasts of their teams sporting events.

And what is even more unfortunate is the fact that those afore mentioned streaming and broadcasting companies are restricted from covering their local and regional teams, not only during some regular season events but most especially post season and championship sports events in Kansas...because of those contracts that the school's and the KSHSAA have signed.

I would ask that the Kansas State Legislature give due consideration to eliminating any restrictions that prohibit streaming and broadcast entities from covering their school's sports activities from the beginning of the seasons and through the post seasons, including state championship series events.

Thanks you for your consideration. ***Marty Melia – Goodland, Kansas***

