

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2716
Presented to Senate Committee on Local Government
by Mendy Pfannenstiel, Director of Arkansas City Public Library

January 29, 2024

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As the Director of the Arkansas City Public Library, I speak on behalf of the Board of Directors of ACPL in support of HB 2176. This bill has several benefits to ACPL and our community. It:

- *offers stability and the ability to engage in more effective long-term planning by allowing the library to own real property,*
- *allows local area residents the opportunity to decide on how they wish to receive and support library services through a local ballot measure, and*
- *allows for increased revenue for the library if residents vote in favor of the measure.*

First and foremost, ACPL is dedicated to meeting the changing needs of our community. This includes:

- *expanding outreach & Bookmobile services to disadvantaged neighborhoods and rural areas,*
- *promoting early literacy, parent engagement, & family support programs,*
- *providing solutions to the digital divide and Broadband inequity, especially in rural areas, and*
- *employing more staff to deliver quality services, which also benefits our local economy.*

I respectfully request your support for allowing the residents of Arkansas City the opportunity to decide how they fund library services through a local ballot measure. By empowering our community to make these decisions, we are advocating for a democratic process that ensures community input and reflects the priorities of our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.



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