



KANSAS REPUBLICAN PARTY

TESTIMONY CONCERNING HB 2015

JANUARY 18, 2017

The Kansas Republican Party supports HB 2015. The goal of the bill is to provide guidance on the interpretation and enforcement of campaign finance law and regulations by the Ethics Commission.

Over the past eight years, the Kansas Republican Party has filed several complaints alleging a violation of law or regulation that, after review by attorneys and in good faith, was believed to be an open and shut case, only to have the complaint rejected as insufficient to state a case without any further explanation. There was no indication of whether there were insufficiently detailed facts to make out a violation of law or whether the facts themselves did not state a violation of law.

The lack of explanation creates two problems:

- 1) The best method of enforcing clean campaigns and conformance with campaign finance regulation is for interested parties to observe opponents and file complaints when there is a probable violation.

If good faith complaints are rejected without explanation, interested parties will lose the motivation to make the effort to file complaints, resulting in decreased enforcement and more problematic conduct

- 2) Candidates often seek guidance and advice on what they can and cannot do while campaigning. If a complaint based on conduct that was considered a clear violation is rejected without explanation, then the ability to provide accurate useful advice to candidates is significantly reduced.

Moreover, a short explanation for why a complaint was rejected would allow for the filing of an amended complaint to remedy the deficiency.

Last, explanations of why a complaint is insufficient can provide the basis, in some cases, for amending the law.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Arnold', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kelly Arnold
Chairman, Kansas Republican Party