

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Kansas State Legislature
Committee on Elections
Kansas House of Representatives

Support for HB2223

Monday, February 6, 2017

Submitted by:
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I am writing to voice support for passage and enactment of House Bill 2223 that, "Any person required to make any report, amended report or statement by the campaign finance act that is more than 48 hours late shall be subject to a civil fine of \$500 per day."

As a citizen who is actively engaged in preserving liberty and who worked as a journalist for 32 years, I know that citizens and a watchful media must have access to accurate campaign finance information in a timely manner so informed votes can be cast. As Thomas Jefferson said in an 1816 letter to Charles Yancey, "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be." That is especially true as citizens and media endeavor to learn what individuals, entities and factions support a candidate for public trust.

The current Campaign Finance Act is toothless legislation that reflects negatively on the very legislators who, by their inaction on this bill, falsely claim that our state is governed by a republican system where citizens choose representatives. An uninformed choice is no choice at all but rather oligarchy masquerading as the sovereign rule of the people.

There may be a very few cases where a delay of more than 48 hours is justified by illness or other influences beyond the candidate's control, but an amendment offered by Representative Blake Carpenter addresses that possibility by allowing discretion by the Governmental Ethics Commission.

Please pass HB2233 and demonstrate your support for the sovereignty of informed citizens.

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