

March 15, 2017
Testimony in Support of SB140

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
Honorable Chair – Senator Caryn Tyson
Vice Chair – Senator Dan Kerschen
Ranking Minority – Senator Tom Holland
Honorable Committee Members

Good Morning.

I am Carl Williams, the Sedgwick County At Large Representative to the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature. I'm here today to testify on behalf of the Active Age Newspaper and its importance to the senior citizens of the entire South Central Kansas region and to ask that you help it survive by granting it tax exempt status.

It's impossible to overstate the Active Age Newspaper's importance to the senior citizens in our region. There is no better source of information about issues that are important to senior citizens than the Active Age.

It lets people know of lectures and events; where they can get free health assessments and attend health fairs. It lets them know the schedule of special events for seniors that are sponsored by the City of Wichita and other communities in the region; and publishes stories about senior citizens that are not found in any other publication.

Granted, there's a lot of information available on the internet; but a large number of senior citizens are not familiar with the internet and even those who are, find it difficult to find information and resources using the internet.

And, even though I'm probably more computer savvy than many, even I find it comforting to know that I can rely on my copy of Active Age to have a comprehensive list of activities that are of interest to senior citizens and access to the articles that are specifically of interest to seniors.

This familiar, user-friendly newspaper is a treasure trove of useful information to senior citizens. It's all in one place and I don't have learn later that I missed an event or an opportunity to have a health check-up because the internet didn't target me personally with those events.

Active Age is specifically meant for senior citizens and it is VERY important to helping people network; to find events; to find people with similar interests; read advice about life choices and handling finances on a fixed income. It even let's people know about job fairs for seniors; and...well, it has information that older people just can't find anywhere else.

On behalf of the senior citizens of South Central Kansas, I urge you to grant this highly respected and greatly valued source of information for seniors a tax exemption that will help it survive ...and continue to serve its loyal readers on into the future.

Thank you

Carl Williams

*Sedgwick County At Large Representative
and Floor Leader*

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