

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



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Testimony on SB 247
February 14, 2018

Dear Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Today I am here to provide you with an update on a bill that was introduced last year concerning the Hillside Cemetery District de-annexation from the city limits of Valley Center. Because there was not proper notification to the Hillside Cemetery district and the district would have suffered a significant financial impact, the legislation did not move forward. SB 247 was introduced as an alternative to provide the affected communities with a stable and transparent transition.

The history of the Hillside Cemetery District goes back to the 1940s. During that time, Hillside Cemetery was created for the families of north central Sedgwick County and south central Harvey County, including the cities of Valley Center and Sedgwick. It has provided a final resting place for many families in the area, including many veterans. Up until 2004, the City of Valley Center did not have a cemetery as a option for their citizens. The Hillside Cemetery became the final resting place for many Valley Center residents who benefited from its close proximity and affordable lots.

In the past two decades, Valley Center city limits have continually expanded into the cemetery district. Although residents in the area will continue to have a cemetery of choice for their loved ones, the Valley Center residents in both districts should only be taxed by one entity.

SB 247 provides for a stable transition that all entities have been involved in and agreed to. I hope you will support this bill that continues the spirit of cooperation between the Cities of Valley Center and Sedgwick.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carolyn McGinn'. The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'C' and 'M'.

Senator Carolyn McGinn
Senate District 31