

Testimony on House Bill 2070  
House Transportation Committee

Presented by

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Good afternoon Chairman Proehl and members of the House Transportation Committee. My name is Connor Bryant and I believe that you should consider passage of House Bill 2070 because John Armstrong's patriotism and loyalty to the Union in the Civil War, a defining moment in Kansas History.

The same conflicts that sparked the Civil War are inseparably bound to the creation of Kansas. This conflict created the push for Kansas to become a separate state from the territories around it, and additionally allowed Topeka to emerge as the designated capital of the state.

Passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act and the doctrine of Popular Sovereignty, led to ruthless guerrilla combat that would later become known as Bleeding Kansas. Through this event, a race to create the state constitution began, with border ruffians pushing for a pro-slavery constitution while abolitionists and free staters supported an anti-slavery constitution. The first constitution emerged from Leecompton Kansas, where a series of legal documents were created in an attempt to ban any attempts to limit slavery, as well as banning anti-slavery views. In response, some people worked to launch a free state government out of the city of Topeka. This struggle would continue until the creation of the Wyandotte Constitution in 1859. Kansas entered the Union January 29, 1861 a few months prior to the start of the Civil War.

Within a few years, the struggle in Kansas, and the conflicts resulting from it, led to the beginning of the Civil War. Kansas offered 20,000 out of its 30,000 able bodied men in order to defend the unity of the country. The results of the war are

still felt today, and while he was just one of the thousands, John Armstrong should be immortalized to represent his, and others', deeds through this bill.

Thank you for your time.