



To: Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee  
Date: March 14, 2019  
Subject: **Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2101**  
From: Shahira Stafford, Kansas Cooperative Council

Honorable Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2101. The Kansas Cooperative Council represents all types of cooperatively structured businesses including agriculture marketing and supply, utility, financial co-ops, and consumer cooperatives. Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives.

Co-ops differ from other businesses because they are member-owned and operate for the mutual benefit of their members. In addition to broadly modernizing the Kansas Credit Union Act and bringing it in line with federal law, HB 2101 would more importantly increase local control for credit unions and their cooperative members.

There are seven cooperative principles by which cooperatives put their values into practice. One of those principles is Democratic Member Control. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. When it comes to making decisions, we believe they are best made at the local level by the members of the cooperative and the board of directors that have been elected to represent them.

The Kansas Cooperative Council stands in support of HB 2101 and respectfully requests that when the committee considers the bill for action you pass it favorably. Thank you.

Kansas Cooperative Council  
[www.kansasco-op.coop](http://www.kansasco-op.coop)  
(785) 845-8535