

February 17, 2020

Senator John Barker, Chairman  
Committee on State and Federal Affairs  
Kansas Capitol Building, Room 285-N

RE: Proposed Amendment to HB2385

Chairman Barker and Committee:

I am writing in support of the proposed amendments to House Bill 2385 presented by Allen Hahn.

My family lived in the heart of Saturday night polka dancing in NE Nebraska but we also square danced on Friday night. My husband (deceased last year) and I square danced in Kansas and across the nation for more than 50 years. We have been active in the Gold District of Kansas (the south half and the western half of the State) for more than 50 years. The Gold district sponsors a Spring and a Fall festival, attended by a large number of dancers; also, a sticker dinner and dance, and the callers of the area sponsor a dinner and dance in August. Our district has 23 clubs with 20 local callers and more than 200 dancers from age 8 to more than 90, and averages twenty five dances each month. These clubs and their callers teach new dancers every year.

The Gold district has an organization named KSDA League of Square and Round Dance Clubs that meets each month. We have served as officers in it, in our square dance clubs and are currently Editor of our square dance publication, Happy Tracks that was started in September 1967; is printed and mailed out to 200 households 3 times a year.

In 2008 the National Square Dance Convention was held in Wichita with 6000 dancers We served as Assistant Publicity Chairman and Secretary of the Square Dance Program. Square dancing is a world wide activity and is taught and called in English worldwide.

The Gold district has square danced at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson for more than 12 years, has participated in local area parades, danced at retirement homes and other venues.

I believe square dancing has an important impact in the State of Kansas and I agree with Allen Hahn, President of the Kansas State Callers Association to amend Bill HB2385 to designate Polka Dance as the official State Ethnic Dance and Square Dance as the Official State Folk Dance.

Respectfully,

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