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January 19, 2023

Testimony of Travis Smith, Golden Plains USD 316 Athletic Director
Senate Bill 13 An Act concerning schools; relating to the state high school activities association; contracts for exclusive broadcast coverage of postseason activities; permitting certain local broadcasters to cover a school's postseason activities notwithstanding such exclusive contracts.

My name is Travis Smith and I am the Athletic Director of USD 316 Rexford/Golden Plains. We have had a long-standing relationship with Rich Epp and his Open Spaces Sports live-streaming service out of Colby, Kansas. For many years they have covered our athletic teams while they participate in volleyball, basketball, football, and even track and field. When our community members can not travel to away sporting events, they will often rely on Open Spaces Sports for coverage if they are streaming our contest that evening. Over the past several years, our girl's basketball team has been very successful, reaching the state tournament several times. Unfortunately, that's where the live video coverage ends for O.S.S. Patrons who are unable to attend the tournament can not look to Open Spaces Sports, because they are only allowed to broadcast audio of the game. Our patrons must pay a subscription fee to the NFHS to view the contest if they choose to watch via their streaming service.

This is why Golden Plains, its school board, and its administrators, fully support Senate Bill 13. We have a long-standing positive relationship with the Kansas State High School Activities Association, and understand why they themselves have a broadcasting relationship with the NFHS. With that said, this testimony is not against the KSHSAA, but in favor of smaller companies like O.S.S. and their ability to fully live stream State Championship contests across the state of Kansas. Senate Bill 13 will allow these small online companies the right to do so.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Travis A. Smith

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