



Chair Thompson and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to submit written proponent testimony for SB 373, which prohibits the use of public money for lobbying activities. We hold the following position on SB 373:

1. Contract lobbying with taxpayer funds contributes to the growth of government.
2. Contract lobbying encourages scenarios where taxpayers are funding initiatives that are against their own interest.

Contract lobbying with taxpayer funds contributes to the growth of government.

Kansas is witnessing slowing population growth in 2022, spurred by its increasing cost of living and growing government reputation. From 2000 to 2022, Kansas lost roughly 7% of its population to residents fleeing to states with lower government burdens.¹ Moreover, Kansas has the third highest government employees per capita, and third highest government units per capita.² The principle of limited government and potential for robust economic growth is at risk, in part, due to the practice.

Contract lobbying encourages scenarios where taxpayers are funding initiatives that are against their own interest.

At a fundamental level, SB 373 is an attempt to say taxpayers should not fund efforts that run counter to their interests. Taxpayer funded lobbying provides an unearned incentive for agencies and organizations to help craft and make law. Taxpayers already have a designated advocate for lawmaking, and that is their own legislator. If a constituent wants additional representation, they should give their expressed permission for it. Siphoning taxpayer dollars for purposes beyond carrying out law is a violation of rights.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to support SB 373 in its current form.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Estimates of the Components of Residents Population Change: April 1, 200 to July 1, 2022

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 Census of Governments: Organization Component Estimates