

Testimony before Senate Judiciary Committee

Proponent: HB 2153

Taylor Schettler, Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, I am Taylor Schettler and I am Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2153, dealing with the prohibition against certain fee agency fund sweeps.

The Chamber's 2017 Legislative Agenda approved unanimously by our board of directors states that the Chamber will *"oppose state or local government diversion of taxes or fees away from their statutory purpose to fund general government."*

For decades, the state has diverted fee funds into the state treasury. The language of K.S.A. 75-3036 has been in place for roughly 80 years, however it has been ignored by many administrations. In 2002, during Governor Graves' administration, the state swept Worker's Compensation Fee fund balances into the SGF. Again, in 2009 under the Sebelius administration, the legislature swept \$20M from fee fund balances into the SGF in order to help close the budget gap.

The Kansas Chamber believes in government adopting lean government practices in order to transform the state into a more efficient enterprise. Therefore, should the state face a situation of needing to balance the books, the legislature should look to government efficiencies, over a hundred of which can be found in the A&M study, instead of seeking out other revenue sources that are not rightly theirs.

The Chamber firmly believes that it is simply bad practice to take fees used to fund one agency to support another. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written remarks in support of HB 2153.



"...to continually strive to improve the economic climate for the benefit of every business and citizen and to safeguard our system of free, competitive enterprise".