

Testimony of Katy Richerson

Proponent for the Arkansas City Area Library District Act

1/20/2023

Dear Chairperson and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of the HB 2176 regarding the creation of the Arkansas City Area Library District. My name is Katy Richerson and I am the Youth Services Librarian. I have worked at the Arkansas City Public Library for 12 years and I love my job.

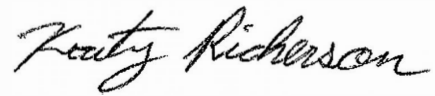
This library is essential to the community. My job is to provide programs for the youth of our city. These programs include story times, summer reading programs, and recreational activities.

We realize that not everyone has the means or ability to come to the library, so we have included day care visits and story times at the preschool classrooms. As a lifelong patron of the Arkansas City Public Library, I can also speak from personal experience just how vital some of our services are. I remember enjoying the annual summer reading program as a child. This program encouraged me to read throughout the summer, which I believe helped me to excel at school. As a college student, I depended on the library for books and other materials that I needed for class projects.

I support this bill because I believe that it would allow us to better serve our community. We would be able to provide more educational programs for both the youth and adults. Most importantly, it would allow us to enhance our early literacy programs, which would provide the children with some vital tools needed to succeed in life.

It is for these reasons that I support this legislation and ask that you recommend it favorably.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katy Richerson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katy Richerson
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