

## Message from the Governor

Pursuant to Article 2, Section 14 of the Kansas Constitution I veto **House Bill 2507**.

One fundamental principle of representative democracy is that minority rights must be protected, especially when majorities are powerful. Legislative rules provide some protection for minority voices, as does the separation of powers. In the regular legislative session, majorities can govern, but their bills are subject to the executive's veto.

Within the legislative branch of government, the Legislative Coordinating Council is charged with serving the interests of all Kansas citizens while the legislature is out of session. Therefore, it is important that all of the elected representatives who serve as members of the Legislative Coordinating Council have an effective voice in the process.

If enacted into law, **HB 2507** would undermine the ability of minority-party representatives on the Legislative Coordinating Council to affect some crucial decisions. In that the council represents the Legislature as a whole, and by extension the entire Kansas citizenry, minority-party rights must be vigorously protected; otherwise, many citizens will go unrepresented by a body that has substantial policy-making authority.

With these considerations in mind, I must veto **House Bill 2507**.

Dated May 16, 2005

Kathleen Sebelius  
Governor.