

Approved: April 7, 2011

Date

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe McLeland at 8:00 a.m. on March 29, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dee Heideman, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Andy Thompkins, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents  
Dennis George, Coffey County Health System, Burlington, Kansas  
Gary George, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Olathe Public Schools  
Cathy Nugent, Johnson County Library Board  
Diane Trinkle, Director, Nortonville Public Library  
Charlene McGuire, Southeast Kansas Library  
Doug Vander Linden, Director, Educational Technology, USD 244, Burlington, Kansas  
Lenora Kinzie, Medical Librarian, Stormont Vail Hospital  
Carol Woolbright, Director, Greenbush Interactive Distance Learning Network  
Audra May, Distance Learning Coordinator, South Central Kansas Distance Learning Network  
Brian McChesney, Coordinator, Interactive Distance Learning, Colley County Comm College  
Chad Austin, Vice President, Government Relations, Kansas Hospital Association  
John Federica, Kansas Cable Telecomm Associations  
Art Hall, Executive Director, Center for Applied Economics, KU School of Business  
Dina Fisk, Consultant for Verizon Wireless

Others attending:

See attached list.

### HB-2390 KAN-ED act; repeal

After the meeting was called to order, Audrey Dunkel of the Kansas Legislative Research Department gave an overview of HB 2390.

Testimony was given first by the opponents of this bill, and the first to speak was Dr Andy Tompkins President and CEO of the Kansas Board of Regents. He opposes this bill because Kan-ed provides a needed service to many people at no charge, and is especially important to members who do not have high-speed broadband access. (Attachment 1)

The next opponent of this bill was Dennis George, Coffey County Health System, Burlington, Kansas, who asked if killing Kan-ed was a way to save tax dollars for the state or the individual taxpayer? If Kan-ed is able to get the best group price and this service is still going to be used why eliminate it and shift the cost to the local tax base which will increase cost, and in turn, increase cost to the Kansas taxpayer. (Attachment 2)

Opposing this bill was Gary George, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Olathe Public Schools. He stated that we share the contact information with students and they use this service. Taking these resources out of the hands of students is not good public policy. (Attachment 3)

The next opponent was Cathy Nugent, member of the Johnson County Library Board, who stated that Kan-ed supplied many resources for libraries by providing needed funding for their core databases that provide access to magazines, consumer health information, student databases and business and legal information. (Attachment 4)

Diane Trinkle, Director, Nortonville Public Library stated she sees every day the usage of Kan-ed by adults, children and families. These services enrich lives every day. The present economy makes these services more important than ever. (Attachment 5)

## CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the General Government Budget Committee at 8:00 a.m. on March 29, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Charlene McGuire, Southeast Kansas Library, strongly opposes this bill because most of the Southwest Kansas libraries are in very rural areas and many of the libraries are small by urban city standards. Most of these libraries do not have an alternative to getting the kind of high speed internet that is necessary to run a library. ([Attachment 6](#))

Doug Vander Linden, Director of Educational Technology, Burlington USD #244, pointed out the salient points attributed to the elimination of the Kan-ed network. ([Attachment 7](#))

The next opponent, Lenora Kinzie, Medical Librarian, Stormont Vail Hospital, stated several proven Kan-ed benefits. 1) EM resource; 2) rural healthcare education; 3) Stormont Vail staff education; 4) telemedicine opportunities; 5) "windshield" time and fuel costs reduced with videoconferencing; 6) enhance recruitment of physicians and other healthcare providers in rural locations; 7) library databases. ([Attachment 8](#))

Opposing **HB 2390**, Carol Woolbright, Director, Greenbush Interactive Distance Learning Network, stated Kan-ed is a critical service for K-12 and the forty seven (47) school district members comprising the 101 interactive video classrooms of the Greenbush interactive Distance Learning Network. We are dependent on the Kan-ed backbone for technical services and support. People in every legislative district in Kansas will be negatively impacted if this bill is passed. ([Attachment 9](#))

Audra May Distance Learning Coordinator, South Central Kansas Distance Learning Network, opposes this bill. She represents a network of nineteen (19) educational institutions and says each of these depends on Kan-ed's services for the survival of their institutions ([Attachment 10](#))

As Interactive Distance Learning Coordinator at Cowley County Community College in Arkansas City, Kansas, Brian McChesney, stated he has been working with Kan-ed since its inception in 2001. The nineteen (19) educational entities served by SCKDLN are mostly rural and rely heavily on the ability to share class and instructors between themselves and with other networks across the state. It would be impossible for each school to retain all the teachers needed for their students to meet Kansas Qualified Admissions Curriculum standards. Through distance learning they can share their math, physics, English, art, foreign language. ([Attachment 11](#))

Chad Austin, Vice President, Government Relations of the Kansas Hospital Association, says this bill should not be passed because Kan-ed is a cost effective use of technology for hospitals and the patients and communities they serve. He said they are concerned about any changes to the current statute that would eliminate funding for Kan-ed and are opposed to this bill. ([Attachment 12](#))

After the opponents finished speaking, John Federico, a proponent spoke on behalf of the Kansas Cable Telecomm Association. He stated there are three areas of concern and he supports the bill. He said he is concerned with the purpose and mission of Kan-ed. Secondly, the funding of Kan-ed is a growing concern. Lastly, their members have some concern about the oversight of the Kan-ed program. ([Attachment 13](#))

The next proponent, was Art Hall, Executive Director, Center for Applied Economics, KU School of Business, who stated Kan-ed served a useful role in the earliest day of high-speed internet when broadband was not available in all areas of the State. The money has greater potential if used elsewhere or returned to taxpayers. He said if Kan-ed ceased to operate, it's members would not notice the difference in internet functionality. He said Kan-ed accomplished it's mission because rural broadband deployment has been accomplished. ([Attachment 14](#))

Dina Fisk, a consultant for Verizon Wireless, said if Kan-ed is needed, then it should be paid for from the State General Fund, or become self-funding by users of the network. She stated she felt if Kan-ed cannot be self-funded or isn't important enough to be funded from the State General Fund, then she encouraged the passage of this bill. ([Attachment 15](#))

## CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the General Government Budget Committee at 8:00 a.m. on March 29, 2011, in Room 152-S of the Capitol.

Written testimony only was submitted by:

Proponent

Patrick Fucik, Director, West Region, Sprint State Government Affairs ([Attachment 16](#))

Opponents:

Beth Reust, Superintendent, USD 270, Plainville ([Attachment 17](#))

Linda Kenne, Superintendent, USD 423, Victoria ([Attachment 18](#))

Jim Minges, Director, Northeast Kansas Library System ([Attachment 19](#))

Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist, Kansas Association of School Boards ([Attachment 20](#))

Ryan Spaulding, Director, Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth, KU Medical Center ([Attachment 21](#))

Brandi Hendrix, Executive Director, Technology Excellence in Educational Network ([Attachment 22](#))

Mike Mathes, Citizen ([Attachment 23](#))

Cynthia Beisner, Director, I-CAN ([Attachment 24](#))

Caleb May, Director, Meade Public Library ([Attachment 25](#))

After a short question and answer period ensued and Andy Tompkins, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents was asked several questions he was unable to answer, the committee requested Brad Williams, Executive Director of Kan-ed appear before the committee to answer questions on March 30, 2011.

The hearing on **HB 2390** was suspended until March 30, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m., March 30, 2011 in Room 152-S

GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

DATE: 3-29-2011

NAME	REPRESENTING
Art Hall	Center for Applied Economics
Jonathan Krueger	ICBOR
Sarah Tompkins	KBOR
Doug Penner	KICA
Craig Grant	KanRen
Lisa Hunkele	KanREN
Erica McDuffett	KanREN
Lenora Kinzie	Stormont-Vail Health Care
Charlene McGuire	Southwest Kansas Library System
Valerie York	OEIE - KSU
Sarah Bradford	OEIE - KSU
Xenii Ror	Kansas Library Assn.
Chad Austin	KHA
Jennifer Findley	ILHA
Jim Munger	NORTHEAST KS LIBRARY SYSTEM
Christi Dossel (HINK)	Health Innovations Network of KS
Faye Honye	USD 233 Olathe
Diane Trinkle	Nortonville Public Library
Justin Stone	Post Audit
Diane Gjerstad	USD 259 - Wichita
Tom Kutz	ICBB
DICK CARTER	LEARNING STATUM
Mike Roesch	Spirit

Whitney Danner  
leigh Keck

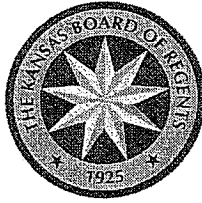
Colby County Commission  
Capitol Strategies

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE

## GUEST LIST

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DATE: 3-29-2011

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KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

HOUSE GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET COMMITTEE  
March 29, 2011

*Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2390*

**Dr. Andy Tompkins, President & CEO**

Chairman McLeland, Ranking Member Burroughs, and members of the Committee, I am here on behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents to testify in opposition to HB 2390, legislation that would eliminate the Kan-ed program.

As you may know, Kan-ed is a program that was created by the 2001 Legislature and is administered by the Board of Regents. Kan-ed provides high-speed bandwidth connectivity for Kansas hospitals, libraries, higher education institutions, and K-12 schools, and works with over 20 private telecom and cable providers to facilitate the public-private partnerships and collaboration necessary to provide this connectivity within the state. Kan-ed provides video-conferencing technology that is utilized to connect local and state leaders with their counterparts across the state, national, and globe, assists in providing distance learning services to school districts throughout the state, provides educational and research databases to libraries, provides critical services to hospitals, and homework tutorial services to students at all educational levels. Kan-ed is funded through the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) at \$10 million annually – a total budget amount that has not changed since the program's inception. We fully support Governor Brownback's recommendation to continue funding for Kan-ed in his Fiscal Year 2012 budget, and his understanding that Kan-ed contributes directly to the broadband access vision he articulated in his "Road Map for Kansas."

HB 2390, if ultimately enacted, would terminate Kan-ed effective June 30, 2011. All Kan-ed contracts with private companies and public agencies would be cancelled, and nine FTE positions would be eliminated. Because Kan-ed is funded by the KUSF, elimination of the program would not result in any SGF savings to the state. All connections and services would be terminated including all network and video connections, statewide video licenses and servers, a host of program and services provided to hospitals, libraries, higher education institutions, and K-12 schools, and statewide 1-800 E-rate support. Kan-ed would also cease to partner with state agencies and Kan-ed members for grant development.

Kan-ed currently provides a T-1 (1.54mb) of access at no charge to Kan-ed members that do not have high-speed broadband access. The T-1 provides access to the internet, video conferencing (if site is equipped), access to Internet2, and all Kan-ed services. Kan-ed provides a 24/7 Network Operation Center in conjunction with KanREN, which is the research network for

Regents universities. Kan-ed members receive discounted service (\$500/month) for 3mb of service and pay 100% of costs above 3mb. Kan-ed helps those with minimal connections the most.

As of March 18, Kan-ed had connected 443 members (K-12 schools, libraries, hospitals and higher education institutions) with daily internet access and access to a private advanced network for distance learning and telemedicine. Kan-ed currently pays telecom providers in Kansas to provide Kan-ed connectivity, and this is accomplished by partnering with over 20 private cable and telecom companies. Any contracts or grants with these providers would be terminated if this bill was enacted. It is important to note that Kan-ed does NOT compete with private entities.

Additionally, private industry also provides the Kan-ed network operations center (KanREN in Lawrence), and at least 10 high-tech jobs would be impacted by elimination of Kan-ed at the Network Operation Center. All Kan-ed services are purchased or leased from private companies, the majority of which are located in Kansas.

Kan-ed provides a website portal where Kan-ed members go for information and enhanced services. Kan-ed has 420,000 non-duplicated user accounts on the Kan-ed Empowered Desktop portal. Schools and district administrators have access to formative tests, quizzes, and district-wide results (optional fee service), and have access to a safe search engine as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Kan-ed also provides CIPA filtering at the network level to further reduce K-12 and library filtering costs. Kan-ed also provides students, staff and faculty with an online "backpack" to store documents and files so they can access them anywhere they are. Not all students (especially those in rural areas) have access to a PC at home. All of these resources would need to be duplicated locally unless another statewide purchasing consortium is formed so that the best prices can be attained.

Kan-ed collects and surveys members for aggregated demand and then provides access to critical services by partnering with the State library and libraries across the state to purchase statewide licenses for educational and research databases. An example is that Kan-ed provides the "ProQuest Nursing Journal" which meets required resource criteria for public and private higher education institutions that have accredited nursing programs. Kan-ed provides a grant to the State Library of Kansas for \$869,000 per year to assist with the purchase of statewide databases. An additional \$800,000 is provided by Kansas libraries and Kan-ed member institutions for the purchase of these databases.

Kan-ed provides staff resources on the statewide Broadband initiative (Governor's office and Department of Commerce), statewide Health Information Technology initiative (KDHE and Kansas Health Information Exchange, INC.), and the statewide Enhanced E911 initiative (Governor's office). In March Kan-ed hosted a 41 site video conference for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. This resulted in hundreds of participants not needing to travel and simple cost avoidance. Kan-ed has worked with JJA, KDHE, Labor, Governor's office, Board of Nursing, Fire Marshall's office and Legislators to provide statewide AND worldwide video conferencing access. Kan-ed has facilitated over 36,000 video sessions in 2010 and has over 10,000 video sessions completed from January 1 through March 14th, 2011. Passage of HB 2390 would eliminate these efficiencies and partnerships in State government.

Passage of HB 2390 will result in termination of the EMResource program. EMResource is a real-time tracking database that resides in every hospital in Kansas. The program lets doctors, nurses, and hospital administrative staff know the availability in terms of specialty units (burn, ICU, etc.). It also reports doctors that are available should such resources become necessary in a mass disaster or casualty. Kan-ed provides the grant funding for this program on an annual basis as a service to hospitals through a partnership with the Kansas Hospital Association.

K-12 schools and public libraries connected to Kan-ed would need to replace their existing Kan-ed circuits and routers with new circuits and routers. These circuits and routers are leased through participation in the federal E-Rate program. The E-Rate program specifically prohibits the ownership, re-selling or re-purposing of equipment or services leased with E-rate dollars. The E-rate window has closed for 2011-2012, and schools and libraries would not be able to use the Kan-ed equipment as the contracts would be canceled and the vendor is returned the leased equipment. Since the E-Rate filing window has closed, schools and libraries that connect through Kan-ed would be left with no Kan-ed and no federal funding for 2012.

This vision developed by the legislature and Governor over a decade ago and now reconfirmed by Governor Brownback was intended to help all of these institutions, which are critical to the education and care of our citizens, bridge the digital divide regardless of their size or location. Their hope also envisioned a network that would provide cost efficiencies and enhanced quality through aggregation of services statewide. That dream has become a reality, and those who use it can certainly testify to how it has served them. I am convinced that elimination of this network would recreate the digital divide in our state, reduce the quality of services available to most of these institutions, and in many cases dramatically increase the price for these services which will ultimately mean that they will not be available to the citizens served by these institutions across the state.

In summary, Kan-ed provides an invaluable service to Kansas within the institutions that are a part of the mission of this initiative at no cost to the SGF. Kan-ed connects hundreds of Kansas hospitals, libraries, and higher education and K-12 institutions, and hundreds of thousands of Kansans within these institutions. Also, Kan-ed ensures that these institutions no matter where they are located in the state have high quality, cost effective, high-speed broadband access.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Committee today.

1-3



# Coffey Health System

March 29, 2011

Chairman McLeland and Member of the Committee  
House Standing Committee on General Government Budget

RE: HB 2390

I am writing in opposition to HB 2390 as a hospital administrator of a county hospital and an elected school board member.

Kan-ed is one program established by the State of Kansas that works. I have been on a journey with a goat utilizing technology to increase quality, reduce costs and increase job satisfaction for employees.

In the early 90's, the three county school districts, county libraries, the county and the hospital joined forces to develop CoffeyCAN. (County Area Network) We came together as a collaborative board to pool resources and meet our community needs. We are equal partners working for all of our county taxpayers. We have high speed connective to all of our hospital system for patient records because of the network.

When we had our connection to the SBC point of presence in Dallas in the early days, it was difficult to connect to other facilities. When KU implemented there first dial up program, it was not reliable and very cost prohibitive. Kan-ed now provides the unified communication of information, video and education between facilities. I now can connect to other facilities as I wanted to do in 1995 and could not do as easy as Kan-ed does it!

We should look at the Federal universal service funds for hospitals to help with Kan-ed just as the Kansas Universal Fund can help with funding today. The hospital federal fund should help just like E-Rate funds schools and libraries on an annual basis. I have never been able to receive any of the grant money that was supposed to be available

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 2

for local hospitals. With Electronic Health Records and Health Information Exchange, Kan-ed can be a vital part in this program with KHIN.

CoffeyCAN will not be able to rebuild our network since we joined Kan-ed. Why do you want to shift costs to the local level like in the past. (Demand Transfer and Slider Payments)

As a school board member, Kan-ed is the key in helping educate all kid in Kansas. The ability to have interactive classes is incredible. It puts Kansas ahead of the other states. If we want to keep the Kansas kids in the top 10 the keep Kan-ed. When I watch Waiting for Superman, Kansas was not mentioned. Kansas should keep what works.

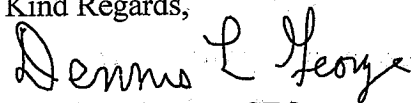
I know if each district, library or hospital had to negotiate on their own for the connection, content and interactive video we wouldn't have the technology. The Group Purchasing Power that Kan-ed deliveries saves tax dollars.

I ask you today. Is this a way to save tax dollars for the state or the individual taxpayer? If Kan-ed is able to get the best group price and this service is still going to be used, why kill Kan-ed and shift the cost to the local tax base which will increase cost and in turn will increase cost to the Kansas tax payer.

Kan-ed works and works well!

I request you to oppose HB 2390 and keep Kan-ed Funded.

Kind Regards,



Dennis L George, CEO

Coffey Health System

PO Box 189

Burlington, Kansas 66839

620-364-4599



March 29, 2011

TO: Representative Joe McLeland, Chair, and Members of the House Standing Committee  
on General Government Budget

FROM: Gary George, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
Olathe Public Schools

SUBJECT: House Bill 2390: KAN-ED Funds

I am present today to express our opposition to House Bill 2390. House Bill 2390 would transfer all \$10M in the KAN-ED fund to the state general fund. As such, all of our 47 schools would lose the electronic data bases supplied as a part of KAN-ED. These data bases include such things as the World Book Encyclopedia, documents of American and world history, and many more. Our Library Media Instructional Technology Coordinator indicates that to replace these materials could cost approximately \$100,000. We would be very hard pressed to find funds to replace these services if we lose them. The recissions of the past several years, this year's recission and the projected cuts for next year have taken a heavy toll. In addition, the KAN-ED network offers a tutoring service for students across the state. We share the contact information with students and they use this service. Taking these resources out of the hands of students is not good public policy. We do not believe House Bill 2390 should go any further and would encourage you to oppose it.

Thank you.

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 3

**TESTIMONY of Cathy Nugent 3/29/2011, Tuesday**  
**General Government Budget Committee, Honorable Jo McLeland, Chair**

Good morning, My name is Cathy Nugent and I am a member of the Johnson County Library Board of Directors and I reside in Leawood, Kansas. I thank you for your time this morning concerning HB 2390 which addresses Kan ed..

I understand that the Committee is considering eliminating Kan ed as a delivery method for Kansas Universal Service Funds and the Committee is exploring some alternatives via a competitive outsource process with the telecom industry.

As you consider the alternatives, I want to make you aware of the total value the Kan ed organization brings to Kansas libraries, schools, and health care organizations.

Public libraries in Kansas are part of the safety net of services in these challenging economic times. At Johnson County Library we have experienced significant increases in the use of our collections be it books, DVDs, CD or online databases due to people suffering unemployment, loss of health care benefits, loss of broadband access or unfamiliarity with computers. Our public computers have waiting lists. People needing help with resumes or job applications has increased.

Kan ed provides needed funding for our core databases that provide access to magazines, consumer health information, student databases and business and legal information. Any interruption of this necessary service would significantly reduce our services and further strain our dwindling revenue. We would not be able to take advantage of the consortia savings that the statewide contract provides.

Kan ed provides the Learning Express database that is important to those seeking job by preparing them for testing in various subjects. Nursing students access the Nursing and Allied Health Source for their information.

Kan ed also provides broadband (T1) service to many rural communities throughout the state that do not have the resources to provide internet access for their citizen thus placing them in a grossly inequitable situation or digital divide compared to other parts of the state.

Libraries are able to take advantage of the Kansas Universal Service Fund by applying for erate services. This process is on a strict timeline. Any changes in the next fiscal year would cause libraries to miss the July 1, 2011 date for applying or a new provider. The loss of erate funding would further cripple libraries.

Lastly, Kan ed currently makes possible access to an online tutor services which is actively used by students in Johnson County and throughout the state. Actual teachers with expertise in math and science are available remotely to students between 2pm and midnight during the week. Our students and parents praise this service as important to their children. Also many of our librarians do not have these skills to help students let alone provide assistance after hours.

Without statewide coordination and funding equivalent services would not be evenly distributed across our very diverse state. Some services would not be services the telecom companies would probably bid on and thus be lost.

The Kan ed services work well for libraries. I urge you to consider a close look at the service and the impact to libraries.

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 4

March 29, 2011

Representative Joe McLeland, Chairman  
Representative Pete DeGraaf, Vice Chairman  
Representative Tom Burroughs  
Representative Nile Dillmore  
Representative Ramon Gonzalez  
Representative Don Hineman  
Representative Kyle Hoffman  
Representative Jim Howell  
Representative Ron Ryckman

From: Diane Trinkle, Director, Nortonville Public Library

**RE: HB2390**

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Diane Trinkle and I am the director of the Nortonville Public Library in Northeast Kansas. I am here to testify today about the positive impact of Kan-Ed that I have seen in public libraries serving all residents of Kansas.

Each day, I see usage of the services Kan-Ed provides. We see adult users learning about their ancestors using the HeritageQuest database. They take online classes using our T-1 line. We have children learning about the world using the internet and other databases provided by Kan-Ed. Job-seekers come into our library and find jobs online. Families, unable to afford internet in their home, use these services to enrich their lives. Citizens with serious medical conditions access information not available in our community. Grandparents proudly tell us they have emailed their grandchildren. This service allows us to make an amazing difference to all of our citizens.

The databases offered to us free of charge through Kan-ed would be

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 5

impossible for us to obtain any other way. The cost would exceed our total annual operating budget. While we understand many small communities don't have the same resources that are available in large communities, Kan-ed brings the world to us. The majority of our state is made up of these smaller communities and they need this information. HB2390 would take that away from them.

Last year, in our community of less than 1,000 people, we had over 10,000 visits to the library to use our T-1 connection and countless database usages.

When our Kan-ed internet connection was first installed, it was the only option for internet in our community. We remember what a difference that made to us. We are now fortunate to have other internet resources available to Nortonville, however, that is not the case in many Kansas communities. In their communities, the Kan-Ed connection is the only one available. Without it, they would no longer have the ability to offer online services, including databases. We can't let that happen. The present economy makes these services more important than ever.

Continuing Kan-ed says yes to the citizens of Kansas who use these services. It provides videoconferencing, using a constant, stable connection, to communicate and learn, it provides Kan-Ed Live Tutoring to help our children become competitive in our world, it allows parents the ability to fill out financial aid forms to give their college-bound children a great future, it supports farmers who use these resources to maintain their farms, and supports families and older Kansans.

These services enrich lives every day.

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today. If you have questions, I would be happy to answer those for you.

**Testimony to the**  
**House General Government Budget Committee on HB 2390**  
**Tuesday, March 29, 2011**

Charlene A. McGuire  
Technology Consultant, Southwest Kansas Library System  
100 Military Ave, Suite 210, Dodge City, KS 67801  
620-225-1231, [cmcguire@swkls.org](mailto:cmcguire@swkls.org)

Good morning, my name is Charlene McGuire. I am here today to put in my 25 cents worth and to tell you what Kan-ed means to southwest Kansas libraries. I take care of the technology needs for 38 public libraries in a 21 county area of southwest Kansas. Most of these libraries are in very rural areas and many of the libraries are small by urban city standards.

Where do people go when they need to know something? They go to the library or to the Internet. What if the library is their only source for accessing the Internet and that library is about to lose their funding for Internet? That is what will happen in southwest Kansas if HB2390 is passed. Public libraries are the only place that rural Kansans have access to free Internet. 34 of the public libraries in southwest Kansas get their Internet through Kan-ed. If Kan-ed is not funded, 32 of these libraries will lose their only source of T-1 type high speed Internet. That's right; in southwest Kansas most of our libraries do not have an alternative to getting the kind of high speed Internet that is necessary to run a library these days.

Without the Kan-ed network, our libraries will have to go back to the less reliable and most often slower speed Internet they had before Kan-ed. At least three libraries will lose their Internet entirely. Right now our Kan-ed libraries receive a T-1 speed connection from Kan-ed at no cost to the library. Those who require a higher speed connection apply for federal e-rate funds to supplement the cost of their Internet. Any library can apply for federal e-rate funds for Internet but the amount they collect is based on their free and reduced lunch percentages. No library gets 100 % of their Internet bill paid, libraries in southwest Kansas get 70 – 80% paid (in other parts of the state this rate is lower). The deadline to file for e-rate has already passed so libraries can not apply until next year for funds that would start in July 2012. If Kan-ed is abolished, public libraries would have no Internet assistance for one whole year and then be left with paying on average 20 – 30% of their Internet bill. Even if the network of T-1 connections put together by Kan-ed were left in place, our small libraries would be faced with a shortfall of \$114 - \$171 per month. Our libraries just do not have this magnitude of money in their constantly dwindling budgets.

Public libraries in Kansas have had their budgets cut by a significant reduction in general state aid and a

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment : 6

reduction of county and city budgets while being asked by the state government and local agencies to provide more services to the population through e-government such as on-line Kansas tax filing, tax payments, unemployment applications, and job searching.

Starting in 2007 and continuing through 2010, 35 public libraries in southwest Kansas formed a consortium to bring information about library holdings and state-wide databases to the patrons of southwest Kansas through an on-line, anytime, integrated library system. Our small libraries can never hope to have all the resources their patrons may want, but with our consortium we can get most anything a patron might need. Stable high speed Internet access through Kan-ed has been a key to making this system work in our libraries.

16 out of 21 counties in southwest Kansas lost population according to the 2010 census, 6 of these counties lost 10% or more of their population. While we as a state are encouraging our population to stay in Kansas, we are putting up roadblocks to people's ability to stay. Library patrons in rural Kansas especially are using the free high speed Internet in libraries to conduct their small business ventures. I know of several instances where patrons come into the library and work several hours a day conducting e-business ventures. I have seen stay-at-home moms and disabled Kansans use the library Internet to help provide for their families. These patrons either physically cannot get Internet at their homes or cannot afford to do so.

I have looked over HB 2390 and I have to wonder what can be gained by passing this bill. The money for funding Kan-ed comes from the Kansas Universal Service Fund or KUSF. The purpose of the KUSF is to assure quality services be made available to all Kansans. That is what Kan-ed does. Kan-ed is not funded by the state general fund so abolishing Kan-ed will not help the budget crisis. If Kan-ed is abolished, all funds left in the Kan-ed fund would be transferred to the state general fund but as far as I know Kan-ed uses all of its funds each year so there would not be any funds to transfer so no help to the budget crisis there either. The Fiscal Note for HB 2390 indicates that the fee necessary to finance Kan-ed from the KUSF would be abolished. To quote Steven J. Anderson, Director of the Budget, "Abolishing KAN-ED would reduce \$10.0 million in fees collected for KUSF annually, which would reduce phone customers' bills an average of 25 cents per month." It comes down to saving 25 cents per month per customer rather than providing high speed Internet to Kansans through their public libraries. A 25 cent per month per customer savings rather than providing statewide network and video connections, statewide video licenses and services, live homework help through Tutor.com, state-wide databases, services to 420,000 Empowered Desktop users, Learning Station test builder and hospitals' major disaster emergency room tracking database, and state-wide E-rate support. I guess for my 25 cents worth, I would rather have all of the Kan-ed services instead of 25 more cents in my pocket. I tried to compare this 25 cents saving to some item like a cup of coffee, or a pack of gum, or even a postage stamp but I can't think of anything that costs so little. Kan-ed is working for Kansans. Why are we spending time and effort even thinking about cutting such a crucial service as Kan-ed for so little in return?



**Kansas House of Representatives  
General Government Budget Committee Hearing**

Doug Vander Linden  
Director of Educational Technology, Burlington USD #244  
Project Manager, Coffey County Area Network  
620-364-8478 ext. 3160  
[dvanderlinden@usd244ks.org](mailto:dvanderlinden@usd244ks.org)

1) Summary of CoffeyCAN (back) and Community Networking

2) Direct Impact on the Elimination of Kan-ed Network

- a. Loss of Connectivity to Distance Learning Networks which means loss of course offerings for students in small and rural schools. It also will mean a loss of resource sharing for small schools which in turn means less revenue and the potential loss of teaching jobs in these schools.
- b. Loss of electronic field trip opportunities for students in K to 8 as well as enhancement/enrichment classes for these students. Many times these field trips help elementary teachers meet state standards in Science and Social Studies.
- c. Increased travel time and costs for teachers and administrators in attending meetings and trainings that currently are held via interactive video.
- d. Increased network costs in trying to rebuild network connections to regional service center networks or other network "islands" in the state. Quick estimates between \$7,000 and \$12,000 annually, for our network just to rebuild a connection to Southeast Kansas Service Center at a minimum.
- e. Increased general fund costs in trying to replace "some" of the information resources and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning tools that are provided on a state-wide level in aggregate including netTrekker and many educational databases
- f. Impact on Student Learning and performance on the Kansas State Assessments with the loss of LS Test Builder that is used by many teachers state-wide to help prepare students for these assessments.
- g. Loss of access to Internet2 to K-12 schools via Kan-ed and MANY future advances in technology tools for regular and special education students including research in virtual reality, 3D Tools for Education and more.
- h. Loss of 2 million dollars in federal funds that Kan-ed is able to acquire by coordinating the consortium of schools, libraries and hospitals.

3) Future Implications on Elimination of Kan-ed

- a. Loss of vision and leadership as it relates to Community Networking within the state and nationally.
- b. Loss future network connectivity at the regional and national levels including national broadband initiatives.
- c. Loss of future state-wide technology opportunities like State Assessment servers on Kan-Ed and other advanced networking services that would benefit schools, libraries and hospitals alike.

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment : 7

# **Coffey County Fiber Optic Network Description**

## **March 2011**

The Coffey County Area Network (CoffeyCAN) consists of over 65 miles of fiber optic cable and communications electronics located in the 6 communities (Lebo, Waverly, New Strawn, Burlington, LeRoy, and Gridley) in our county. We use a combination of networking standards including Switched Gigabit, Fast-Ethernet, Ethernet, and Wireless to provide interactive distance education, data networking, and Internet services to 6 major players: USD #243, USD #244, USD #245, the 6-branch county library system, the county health care system, and the county courthouse and its agencies. There are a total of 27 individual buildings that are connected and part of our wide area network. The network is really an interesting mesh of networking standards with a consistent backbone standard that ties all the entities together.

In addition, there are two connect points that tie our network to the outside world. The first is the Internet itself. The second connect point is the Kan-Ed network offered through the Kansas Board of Regents. CoffeyCAN served from 2002 through 2009 as a Network Access Point (NAP) for the Kan-Ed state-wide network. Under the new Kan-Ed v2 Network Design, CoffeyCAN will server as a Kan-Ed Access Provider (KAP). This new KAP structure was put into place during the summer of 2009 and includes advanced video services and access to Internet 2.0. A significant provider of services via the Kan-Ed connection has been the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush. The county school districts are members of the SEK Distance Learning Network for IDL Classes and Electronic Field Trips.

A variety of programs and services have been made available to our students, teachers, library patrons, county employees, and community members over the past four years. These include:

- Interactive Distance Learning Classes between Lebo & Waverly and Burlington & SCC.
- Continuing Education classes for adult learners in the county and surrounding areas.
- College Courses for teacher training through Emporia State University.
- Electronic Field Trips for elementary age students during and after school hours.
- High Speed Internet Access (20 megabits) to all computers on the network. (over 1,700 computers county-wide)
- Filtered Web Access on an entity-by-entity basis based on IP addressing.
- Internet Web Servers for all county entities.
- Electronic Mail Servers for the county entities providing content-managed electronic mail accounts for employees, teachers and students.
- Physician Access System and Records Updating via VPN for the County Health System.
- Library Patron Web-based Card Catalog.
- County-wide dial-up and wireless Internet access in partnership with our ISP.
- More programs and services are being added on a monthly basis.

The network is overseen by the Coffey County Fiber Optic Board of Control. This board is recognized by the Kansas Attorney General's Office with an Intergovernmental Agreement and by-laws that are approved through 2021. This board of control is made up of a representative of each of the 6 entities as well as an at-large member. In addition, the entities contract with Integrated Technology Consultants to serve as consultants and front line technicians for system issues.

# Stormont-Vail HealthCare

General Government Budget Committee – HB 2390  
March 29, 2011

Stormont-Vail HealthCare, Topeka, KS, has had a long-term relationship with Kan-ed. The first resources were library databases and EMResource used in our Emergency Department. In 2008 we received funding to purchase videoconferencing equipment to provide education and support for rural healthcare providers in northeast Kansas, as well as for our medical and healthcare staff members. The acceptance and usage by both Stormont-Vail staff and the rural hospitals has far exceeded our expectations. In addition to education and communication, we are moving to provide telemedicine services to aid rural healthcare providers, hospitals and patients. Partnering with Kan-ed we currently have videoconferencing available at:

HINK Hospitals (Health Innovations Network of Kansas)

Coffee County Hospital, Burlington  
Community HealthCare System, Onaga  
Horton Community Hospital, Horton  
Morris County Hospital, Council Grove  
Nemaha Valley Community Hospital, Seneca  
Sabetha Community Hospital, Sabetha

Stormont-Vail HealthCare, Topeka

Stormont-Vail Regional Hospital  
Stormont-Vail/Cotton-O'Neil Cancer Center  
Stormont-Vail/Cotton-O'Neil Diabetes and Endocrinology Center  
Stormont-Vail/Cotton-O'Neil Heart Center  
Stormont-Vail/Cotton-O'Neil Carbondale Clinic  
Stormont-Vail/Cotton-O'Neil Emporia Clinic  
Stormont-Vail/Cotton-O'Neil Osage City Clinic  
Stormont-Vail/Cotton-O'Neil Wamego Clinic

## Proven Kan-ed Benefits

**EMResource:** This is a behind the scenes tool that is used daily by our Emergency Department staff and it truly saves lives. EMResource advises referring rural hospitals of our Emergency Room status, whether we are available to care for their patient, or we are operating at high capacity and it may be in the patient's best interest to divert them to another hospital. Likewise, we check KU-Med's Emergency Department's status before we transfer a patient to their hospital for specialized care we are not able to provide, such as burn care.

## Rural healthcare education:

Stormont-Vail physicians, nurses, allied health and executive staff members provide educational programs for healthcare providers at the HINK hospitals that have

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 8

videoconferencing access. These educational sessions have improved the skills and knowledge of the rural healthcare providers; in fact they are asking for programs in areas where they need more knowledge. Many of our programs are presented simultaneously at Stormont-Vail and outlying hospitals and clinics, which is an efficient use of instructor's time. Sample programs include:

- Neonatal and Pediatric Grand Rounds Series
- Trauma Grand Rounds Series
- Stroke Symposium and Stroke Updates
- Acute Detoxification
- National Patient Safety Goals
- Vascular Access Device Challenges
- Pediatric Skin Diseases

**Stormont-Vail staff education:** Healthcare providers at the main hospital and clinic locations are able to attend distance educational, training and certification programs.

- Oncologists attend KU-Med cancer case conferences.
- Oncology staff members are participating in the Midwest Cancer Alliance with other providers throughout Kansas.
- Staff members in rural setting needed "right now" training on the use of a Holter Monitor. Cardiac staff used videoconferencing to illustrate the correct use.
- Certification programs. Just last week, four oncology nurses completed a two-week Chemotherapy/Biotherapy Course presented by KU-Med Center.

**Telemedicine opportunities:** Stormont-Vail/Cotton-O'Neil is in the initial stages of providing telemedicine to rural Kansans.

- Cotton-O'Neil oncologists and endocrinologists are currently working with Horton Community Hospital providers to establish telemedicine services in Horton.
- Endocrinologists are discussing options with providers at Salina Regional Health Center to consult with diabetic patients in that area.
- We are exploring teledermatology and telepsychiatry.

**"Windshield" time and fuel costs reduced with videoconferencing:**

- Physicians and advanced practitioners are seeing patients in their home communities, at locations where the patients are comfortable.
- Physicians and advanced practitioners attend medical staff meetings at their home locations in Wamego, Emporia, etc., instead of driving to Topeka monthly or twice a month.
- Stroke and trauma certification requires Stormont-Vail to provide education throughout our area. Presenters reduce travel time and costs using videoconferencing. They do not physically need to go to each location.
- Stormont's CEO and executive team members attend organizational meetings onsite instead of traveling which reduces healthcare expenses.
- The Dean of Baker School of Nursing, videoconferences with faculty and staff on the Baker campus instead of driving to Baldwin City.

**Enhance recruitment of physicians and other healthcare providers to rural locations** such as Carbondale, Emporia, or Wamego, as videoconferencing reduces their sense of isolation.

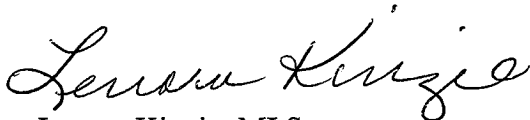
**Library Databases:**

- ProQuest Nursing Database is critical to for staff members, as well as nursing education.
  - Stormont-Vail medical library uses ProQuest Nursing multiple times daily to provide information to staff members for patient care, policy and procedures, and/or educational preparation.
  - ProQuest Nursing has access to cultural/ethnicity information which Joint Commission, a hospital accrediting association, will be requiring at hospitals and healthcare institutions in the next two years.
  - ProQuest Nursing provides access to Joanna Briggs resources, which is one of the primary resources for nursing evidence-based information.
  - Baker School of Nursing students use ProQuest Nursing as one of their main resources. It provides many full-text articles, 24/7.

**Future directions:**

- Stormont-Vail HealthCare was recently asked by Kan-ed staff member to consider expanding our educational offerings statewide. Rural healthcare providers need access to CE/CME programs to maintain their skills and license.
- Would like to be able to provide videoconferencing access for all HINK locations.
- Additional telemedicine applications – teledermatology, telepsychiatry.

Thank you for your serious consideration of our request to continue the Kan-ed program and not support HB 2390. I would hate to see Kansas lose a proven, critical resource for schools, libraries and hospitals. Please contact me at anytime for additional information.



Lenora Kinzie, MLS  
Kan-ed Site Administrator  
Director, Library Services  
Stormont-Vail HealthCare  
1500 S.W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66604  
(785) 354-5806  
(785) 354-5059 (fax)  
lkinzie@stormontvail.org

# Cotton-O'Neil Clinic

Cotton O'Neil Clinic

a division of Stormont Vail Healthcare

901 Garfield

Topeka, Kansas 66606-1695

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to ask that you reconsider your support of HB 2390 that would dismantle the Kan-Ed program. At first blush Kan-Ed may seem superfluous, but after utilizing the program I am a firm believer that it has and will continue to positively impact the health of rural Kansans.

At Stormont-Vail HealthCare, we have been able to obtain the equipment and connectivity required to provide telemedicine service. In this declining medical reimbursement environment we could not utilize our scarce funds to purchase this equipment ourselves. There is no business case for this expense for our facility. Thankfully, Kan-Ed provided the necessary funds that are allowing us to provide telemedicine services.

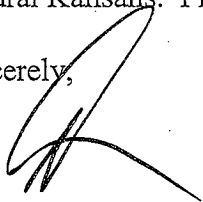
It has been quite a process to start the service and it has been well received and would be a shame to discontinue it. We are providing oncology services to patients in Horton via telemedicine and we are weeks away from providing endocrinologist (diabetes) services to patients in Salina. Over 50% of our Medicare patient base has diabetes. These patients need frequent care but we all know distance precludes many elderly patients from going to the doctor when they should. There are no endocrinologists west of Topeka and Wichita.

Our next planned telemedicine services are dermatology. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about telemedicine, (785) 354-9591 x205.

We also frequently utilize our Kan-Ed connection to allow our Cancer Center staff to participate in educational offerings and meetings with the KU Cancer Center.

As I said, I do believe that Kan-Ed has and will continue to positively impact the health of rural Kansans. Please do not support HB 2390. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Debra Yocum,  
Vice President, Clinic Operations



Southeast Kansas Education Service Center • PO Box 189 • 947 W. 47 Highway • Girard, Kansas 66743 • P: 620-724-6281 • F: 620-724-6284 • [www.greenbush.org](http://www.greenbush.org)

March 29, 2011

Testimony for House General Budget Committee

I speak in opposition to HB 2390, repealing Kan-ed.

Kan-ed is a critical service for K-12 and the 47 school district members comprising the 101 interactive video classrooms of the Greenbush Interactive Distance Learning Network. The Greenbush Network supports schools in the eastern half of the state of Kansas, from the Nebraska state line to the Oklahoma border. In addition to the Greenbush network, there are nine other distance learning network consortia that support distance learning regionally. All of us belong to the Kansas Association for Interactive Distance Education or KAIDE, a statewide advocacy group. We are dependent on the Kan-ed backbone for technical services and support.

As I speak, right now, there are hundreds of events taking place on Kan-ed. The technical connections represents thousands of students all over the state receiving high school and college classes, middle school and elementary classes, special programs, meetings, and other events that are daily occurrences on Kan-ed. Kan-ed is the only telecommunications resource in this state that is dedicated to ensuring high quality video and audio for distance learning and for videoconferencing. Kan-ed enables distance learning, a mainstay of K-12 education since 1989, to operate in an efficient and cost effective manner across the entire state. Building the Kan-ed backbone in 2003 allowed the state to leap forward technically and create a robust and industrious interactive environment that enhances education and quality of life in the state. Simply put, there is no other resource in this state to replace Kan-ed, especially by July 1, 2011.

Kansas is known nationally for its effective high speed backbone. A peripheral benefit is the fact that several Federal grants have been awarded to Kansas agencies since 2003 because a reliable statewide backbone exists, over which we can provide innovative programs. One example of Federal funding is the Mandarin Chinese program. Currently, 730 Kansas students receive Mandarin Chinese language classes over Kan-ed. With projected growth for 2011-12, it is anticipated over 1000 Kansas students will be learning Chinese next year. Chinese is the most commonly spoken language in the world, and is one of the languages considered critical to the national security of this country according to the National Strategic Language Initiative established by President Bush in 2006. Kansas students are fortunate to have this opportunity. Without a backbone over which to provide the classes, we will lose the grant.

Kan-ed is a means to improve career options for Kansas workers. NBAF, the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility, which will reside in Manhattan, will employ hundreds of new workers in a variety of interesting and potentially lucrative careers. We want Kansas kids to have these opportunities. Planning is underway for an NBAF career program that will operate over Kan-ed to keep our best and brightest students in Kansas and in rewarding careers.

In 2010-11, over 66,000 students, staff, administrators, and others participated in events on the Greenbush network, all over the Kan-ed backbone. Over 1600 students take daily high school and college classes that would otherwise be unavailable. As school budgets are cut, distance learning and Kan-ed is more critical than ever before.

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 9

Service • Innovation • Opportunities



Southeast Kansas Education Service Center • PO Box 189 • 947 W. 47 Highway • Girard, Kansas 66743 • P: 620-724-6281 • F: 620-724-6284 • [www.greenbush.org](http://www.greenbush.org)

Kan-ed serves far more than the 47 districts in the Greenbush network. The data that I have just provided is replicated by the remaining nine other distance learning networks, and importantly, by the three other Kan-ed constituencies...hospitals, universities, and libraries.

People in every legislative district in Kansas will be negatively impacted by HB 2390. I respectfully ask you to please vote no on HB 2390 to ensure we keep moving forward in Kansas.

*Carol Woolbright*

*Director*

*Greenbush Interactive Distance Learning Network*

*Phone 620-724-6281*



South Central Kansas Distance Learning Network  
202 E. Allen  
Argonia, KS 67004  
March 21, 2011

Dear Kansas Legislatures,

I am writing to you to support Kan-Ed and oppose House Bill 2390. I represent a network of 19 educational institutions: Anthony/Harper USD 361, Argonia USD 359, Barber County North USD 254, Belle Plaine USD 357, Bluestem USD 205, Caldwell USD 360, Cowley County Community College, Cedar Vale USD 285, Central Burden USD 462, Conway Springs USD 356, Douglass USD 396, El Dorado USD 490, Flint Hills USD 492, Hamilton USD 390, Oxford USD 358, South Central Kansas Educational Service Center, South Haven USD 509, Udall USD 463, and Wellington USD 353. Each of these depends on Kan-Ed's services for the survival of their institutes.

Many of these school districts are rural schools that heavily rely on the many uses of Empowered Desktop and the video conferencing services available through Kan-Ed. During this semester alone, there are 42 high school classes and 20 college classes that are being taken by students that run over the Kan-Ed Bridge. Video conferencing is vital for these schools to be able to offer classes that are not offered in-district. The Kan-Ed Bridge offers a cost effective means to bandwidth to support these classes that would be impossible over the schools current network. Students are able to graduate with the Kansas Board of Regents requirements met, and some students can graduate with much of their first year of college complete.

Not only would students be affected by the loss of Kan-Ed, but teachers and administrators use the services as well. Video conferencing allows professional development opportunities for staff to save time and money by participating in their district.

Education in Kansas needs your support in protecting such a valuable resource. We need you to support Kan-Ed and oppose House Bill 2390 to protect the quality of education and allow us to plan for the future.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Audra May, Distance Learning Coordinator  
South Central Kansas Distance Learning Network

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 10



**COWLEY  
COLLEGE**

March 28, 2011

Dear Kansas Legislators,

I am writing to you in support of Kan-ed and in opposition of House Bill 2390. I am the Interactive Distance Learning Coordinator at Cowley County Community College in Arkansas City, Kansas. I am also the network technician for the South Central Kansas Distance Learning Network which represents 19 educational institutions in South Central Kansas, all of which rely on the services of Kan-ed. Between Audra May of the SCKDLN and I, we utilize the Kan-ed Bridge on a daily basis and schedule all classes for the network and Cowley College, as well as special programs and meetings. The spring semester of 2011, our network alone has 42 high school class and 20 college classes running over the bridge.

Most schools around the state utilize a variety of services offered by Kan-ed, but I feel it best to keep my comments focused on Interactive Distance Learning, of which I am most familiar. I have been working with Interactive Distance Learning at Cowley for about 12 years and with Kan-ed since its creation in 2001.

The 19 educational entities served by SCKDLN are mostly rural and rely heavily on the ability to share classes and instructors between themselves and with other networks across the state. It would be impossible for each school to retain all the teachers needed for their students to meet Kansas Qualified Admissions Curriculum standards. But through the use of Distance Learning, they can share their Math, Physics, English, Art, Foreign Language and other teachers so these students can graduate with the same standards as their peers across the state.

Some of these high school students meet their graduation requirements before graduation and then have the opportunity to obtain dual credit or college credit by taking classes from Cowley College. Some of the classes taught during the regular school day by Cowley instructors are Comp I/II, Psychology, Sociology, Speech, and a variety of Math classes. High school students are not the only ones to benefit from Distance Learning. Cowley College students also have the opportunity to share classes between the main campus in Arkansas City and the Mulvane outreach center. This allows them to connect with instructors at both locations that are convenient to their schedule. Cowley has also partnered with Wichita State University for the Preparing Educators Together (PET) program which allows students in Arkansas City and Winfield to attend classes in Arkansas City and avoid driving to Wichita several nights a week to work on their teacher certification. These classes connect from both the WSU Main campus and South Campus in Derby.

Students are not the only ones to benefit from a relationship with Kan-ed. Academic departments at Cowley also have meetings over IDL between the main campus, the Mulvane, and Westside branch campuses. Administrators at Cowley have connected to the Board of

House General Government Committee

**Cowley College 125 S. Second Street, PO Box 1147 Arkan** Date: 03-29-2011  
**phone: 620.442.0430 fax: 620.441.5350 www.**

Attachment : 11

Regents in Topeka for Technical Education Funding meetings, CEO Briefings, and Curriculum Alignment meetings to name a few. By connecting to KBOR and other Community Colleges around the state, they are able to attend these meetings with very little time out of the office and without incurring any travel expenses.

Members of the communities served by Kan-ed have also benefited from this relationship. One such example is the Pediatric Symposium held March 3rd & 4<sup>th</sup> 2011 which was sponsored by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and hosted by Cowley College. Around 500 participants attended this two day event at 41 locations around the state including libraries, hospitals and schools. This event would not have been possible without the assistance of the network technicians and video specialists at Kan-ed's partner Kan-REN, the managers of the Kan-ed network. Cowley is also a host site for the Kansas Regents Network Telenet 2 video conferencing network, which allows local police to attend training sessions from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center. Cowley has also participated in several video-conference meetings for community members with Kansas State High School Activities Association, KU Telemed and others.

These are just a few of the benefits the folks in South Central Kansas receive from such a valuable resource as Kan-ed. I would ask you to please support Kan-ed and oppose HB2390 to help maintain the quality education the students in rural Kansas deserve.

Thank you for your time and support,

Bryan McChesney



Tom Bell  
President and CEO

To: House General Budget Committee

From: Chad Austin, Vice President, Government Relations  
Jennifer Findley, Senior Director of Education

Date: March 29, 2011

Re: House Bill 2390

The Kansas Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 2390. The Kan-ed program has benefited more than 150 Kansas hospitals and which have resulted in better efficiencies and quality of services to Kansans and the communities they serve.

**Kan-ed is a cost effective use of technology for hospitals and the patients and communities they serve. We are concerned about any changes to the current statute that would eliminate funding for Kan-ed and are opposed to HB 2390.**

Currently, there are 73 hospital members directly connected to the Kan-ed network. Hospitals of all sizes have effectively utilized many benefits from their participation in Kan-ed. To date, hospitals have received more than \$3.9M in direct support from Kan-ed including:

- Financial and technical assistance in acquisition of broadband services which allows for increased employee and patient education;
- Grants to hospitals for upgrading video conferencing equipment to allow operation on the Kan-ed network which allows hospital employees to participate in education and other meetings without leaving the hospital;
- Educational and reference resources for hospital employees;
- Grants to hospital members to develop continuing education programs that will be provided over the Kan-ed network;
- Opportunities for collaboration among Kan-ed constituents which allows hospitals to share best practices with others; and
- Access to a state-wide hospital emergency communication system.

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 12

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**Kansas Hospital Association**

215 S.E. 8th Ave. • Topeka, KS 66603-3906 • Phone: (785) 233-7436 • Fax: (785) 233-6955 • Web Site: [www.kha-net.org](http://www.kha-net.org)

### **EMResource ®**

The benefits provided to Kansas hospitals through the state-wide license to EMResource have been tremendous. EMResource is a trauma diversion and resource tracking system that has been used in Kansas to address trauma care, emergency preparedness, and state-wide communication. Hospitals can view in real-time information on hospital emergency department status, hospital patient capacity, availability of staffed beds, and specialized treatment capabilities. EMResource has provided many benefits to hospitals and played a very pivotal role in disseminating information related to the record number of disasters affecting Kansas in 2007 and H1N1 response efforts in 2010. Information gathered by EMResource during these two events proved invaluable for state response efforts on the status of hospitals. Continued funding for this program is critical to assuring that efficient trauma care, emergency preparedness and state-wide communication is available for all hospitals.

### **Telemedicine/Health Information Technology**

The rural nature of our state coupled with the anticipated health care workforce shortages in future years makes expanding telemedicine programs in Kansas imperative. Telemedicine allows patients in rural communities to access specialized physicians without time consuming and costly travel. Kan-ed has jump started expansion of telemedicine by enabling many hospitals to take advantage of the benefits provided by using video conferencing equipment. Without the Kan-ed program, Kansas hospitals could expect to see increased line charges, decreased network security, decreased reliability/quality of service, and decreased collaboration among stakeholders.

Over the past several years, many forces have come together to promote the adoption of Health Information Technology and Electronic Health Records in particular. The vision, which KHA supports, continues to be a national system of exchangeable health information to improve patient care, develop health policy, improve public health and to base hospital and physician payment for services based on value and quality. Access to highly secure and reliable bandwidth will be an imperative for hospitals. Kan-ed has the potential to play a pivotal role in making health information exchange a reality in Kansas.



**Testimony in Support of HB2390**  
**House General Budget Committee**  
**John J. Federico**  
**March 22, 2011**

My name is John Federico and I serve as the President of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association. I appear today in support of HB2390. The KCTA believes that HB2390 addresses the lingering concerns with the Kan-Ed Program and seeks to fix a problem with what appears to be another government program that has "over-reached" and lost sight of its original mission and purpose.

The KCTA has a long history of support of the Kan-Ed Program and offered testimony on the original bill establishing the Program in the 2001 Legislative Session. I personally offered testimony on behalf of the KCTA "*supporting a statewide technology backbone to connect schools, libraries and hospitals across the state.*" I went on to say in my testimony however, that "*the KCTA maintains their belief that the delivery of a broadband technology-based network is best served by competing private entities.*"

The cable industry is not alone in their thinking, nor were they in 2001. Among the recommendations to the 2001 Legislature by the State Education Technology-Based Network Task Force was the declaration that "*Kan-Ed must be managed in a manner that will not compete with the private sector.*" Testimony offered to the Senate Commerce Committee by the Chairman of the Rural Telephone Company: State Affairs Committee stated in their endorsement of *Kan-Ed* legislation that "*services provided over the Kan-Ed network should be clearly and narrowly defined, and periodically revisited to avoid unforeseen or unintended competition with the private sector.*"

In short, the overarching concern of the telecommunications industry during the formation of the Kan-Ed Program was its potential to negatively impact competing private entities. As such, great care was taken to negotiate and gain consent to language limiting the scope and purpose of the state-managed broadband network.

The original intent of the law establishing Kan-Ed was to "*provide for a broadband technology-based network which schools, libraries and hospitals may connect for broadband internet access and intranet access for distant learning.*" The network shall allow for the following features (1)

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 13

Universal provider interconnection or peering rights; and (2) competitively bid end-user Kan-Ed connections. Further restrictions in the law prohibited the network from, among other things, providing as part of their offerings - phone services (either switched voice access or via VoIP)

The KCTA believes there has been a slow, deliberate departure from the original intent and limited scope of the Kan-Ed Program. Earlier this Session there was, in our opinion, a full-blown breach to that "contract." I ask you to review the attached bill, HB2021 that was approved for introduction to the legislature by the Board of Regents and was then introduced in January.

In spite of the fact that the Board of Regents has decided to not pursue HB2021 this legislative session, the cable industry still has concerns about future efforts to steer Kan-Ed down the path of state-subsidized competition to private providers.

There are generally three areas of concern that lead us to support HB2390.

The first is the purpose and mission of Kan-Ed. As mentioned above, we believe they have strayed from the original intent of the law. There seems to be a focus on content versus connectivity. Kan-Ed was born at a time of an emerging broadband market. Today, based on an extensive mapping effort, data confirms that over 99% of households have access to broadband internet. With the proliferation of broadband competition across the state, can't the needs of most end-users be met with private market offerings.

Secondly, the funding of Kan-Ed is a growing concern. It was never intended that the program be permanently funded using KUSF money. Through exhaustive debate in the Capitol over the years related to Kan-Ed funding, it was thought that Kan-Ed if considered a worthy and valuable program should be funded using state general funds. Currently, it is funded by a \$10M transfer from the KUSF. The KUSF is funded by charging a tax on all telecommunication providers who pass the tax onto their customers, your constituents. The KUSF is bloated with over \$65M in the fund. Is it necessary that Kansas maintain the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest state universal service fund in the country? It should be the goal of the legislature and other policymakers to reduce the size of that fund and provide at least *some* relief to the taxpayers who pay that telecommunication tax because of the use their use landline and cell phones.

Lastly, our members have some concern about the oversight of the Kan-Ed program. These concerns have nothing to do with personnel but more to do with "process." The fact that HB2021 was never put before the Kan-ED Advisory Board is a bit mystifying and does lead to some paranoia. The purpose of the Kan-Ed Advisory Board, which includes some members of the telecommunication industry, is to provide input on various matters of interest to the Kan-Ed

program. If the subject matter contained in the Board of Regents' bill (HB2021) is not worthy of consideration by this Board, then I am hard pressed to know what would be appropriate!

In closing, it may appear that HB2390 is a bit drastic, but perhaps it is time for a little tough love from the Legislature. Is it not worth considering, given the current state of telecommunications competition across the state, whether the Kan-Ed program has served its purpose? Is it unrealistic to ask the end-users of the state's telecommunications backbone to contribute to an effort to self-fund the program? Should the legislature be endorsing the use of taxpayer money (KUSF) to fund what is morphing into a subsidized competitor to private business?

We ask your support of HB2390 and am happy to stand for questions.



## **KAN-ED: Mission Accomplished; Time to Re-deploy its Resources**

Testimony Related to HB 2390  
Art Hall, Executive Director  
Center for Applied Economics, KU School of Business

Presented to House Standing Committee on General Government Budget  
March 29, 2011

### Summary of Key Points:

- The Legislature created KAN-ED in 2001 to provide schools, hospitals, and libraries with broadband internet connectivity.
- KAN-ED successfully and effectively accomplished its mission by 2007.
  - The 2006 KAN-ED Annual Report (p. 4) stated that “network expansion is considered complete at this time. . .”
  - A 2007 Legislative Post Audit report indicated that KAN-ED had far exceeded the statutory thresholds set for connectivity of schools, hospitals, and libraries.
  - The 2010 KAN-ED Annual Report says that KAN-ED “has declared that all organizations eligible for membership are now considered to be members.”
  - KAN-ED membership, by definition, indicates broadband connectivity.
- The maturity of broadband internet—and the vast service capability built into it—evolved in ways (and at rapid speeds) that could not have been foreseen when the Legislature created KAN-ED, and has essentially made KAN-ED obsolete.
- A federal government program known as E-Rate provides financial assistance to schools and libraries, financed out of the federal Universal Service Fund. Most of the KAN-ED services are now readily available in the marketplace and most of the KAN-ED membership base can access federal government E-Rate assistance to pay for their use.
- The Kansas Corporation Commission finds that an average of 99.41% of Kansas households have access to broadband internet. Broadband connectivity is widely available.

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 14

## **KAN-ED: Mission Accomplished; Time to Re-deploy its Resources**

### **A Brief History of KAN-ED**

KAN-ED successfully and effectively accomplished its mission by 2007. Five years later, with its sponsorship of HB 2021 in the 2011 legislative session, KAN-ED seeks to dramatically expand its mission, using its tax-funded privileges to directly compete with private telecommunications businesses. This mission creep is in direct conflict with the intent of the original KAN-ED enabling laws, which sought to encourage rather than discourage private-sector competition and investment.<sup>1</sup>

KAN-ED was conceived as a “network of networks” in the year 2000 when broadband internet infrastructure was in its infancy.<sup>2</sup> This conception became operational through legislation in 2001. The Senate Substitute for House Bill 2035S stated:

“The purpose of this act is to provide for a broadband technology-based network to which schools, libraries and hospitals may connect for broadband Internet access and intranet access for distance learning. For that purpose, the state board of regents shall contract in accordance with this act for the creation, operation and maintenance of such network, to be known as the KAN-ED network.”

On May 17, 2002, Governor Graves signed the Substitute for Senate Bill 614, which created a funding source for KAN-ED from the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF)<sup>3</sup> beginning in January 2003. The original legislation intended for (1) KAN-ED KUSF funding to be capped at \$10 million and (2) to revert to SGF funding in FY 2006 on a gradually increasing scale.

KSA 66-2010 remains the law. It says that as of June 30, 2009 KAN-ED should have been fully funded by SGF money. That has not happened. After some years of funding from both KUSF and SGF, Governor Sebelius’ FY 2010 budget recommended a funding level of \$10 million to be paid entirely from KUSF. Governor Parkinson’s FY 2011 budget recommended the same. Governor Brownback’s FY 2012 budget recommends the same.

HB 2021 seeks to statutorily reaffirm KUSF as the state’s sole funding source for KAN-ED. However, HB 2021 also embodies KAN-ED’s plans for mission creep. In this context, it is appropriate to acknowledge that KAN-ED long ago accomplished its mission—and ask whether it should be set free to wind-up its affairs or compete with other telecommunication providers on a consumer-driven, fee-for-service basis rather than a taxpayer-funded basis.

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<sup>1</sup> KAN-ED 2005 Annual Report, p. 6: <http://www.kan-ed.org/AnnualReports/2005AnnualReport.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> KAN-ED 2003 Annual Report, p. 5: <http://www.kan-ed.org/AnnualReports/2003AnnualReport.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> A tax on telecommunication services generates the money for KUSF.  
[http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/telecom/kusf\\_facts.htm](http://www.kcc.state.ks.us/telecom/kusf_facts.htm)

## **Mission Accomplished: The Rapid Obsolescence of a Good Idea**

- In the year 2000, the idea of a “network of networks” made sense. A private network reserved for the use of KAN-ED members that used commercial internet service providers to access the private network could provide the bandwidth required to fulfill the KAN-ED vision. However, the modern internet—and the now vast service capability built into it—has made obsolete the need for a dedicated, private network.
- KAN-ED played an important role in facilitating the connectivity of schools, libraries, and hospitals when broadband internet infrastructure was sparse, fragmented, and expensive to use. KAN-ED used its resources to develop a high-speed “backbone” and expand the access points for the many private providers to connect to. The 2006 KAN-ED Annual Report (p. 4) stated that “network expansion is considered complete at this time. . .”<sup>4</sup>
- By definition, membership with KAN-ED implies high-speed internet connectivity. As the KAN-ED director put it in the 2003 Annual Report (p. 3): “Connectivity—network architecture and infrastructure—is key to meeting the Kansas Legislature’s intent for the Kan-ed Act passed in 2001/2002.”<sup>5</sup>
- K.S.A. 75-7224 set a minimum performance threshold: “Not less than 75% of all schools which have applied to the board to participate in the network, 75% of all libraries which have applied to the board to participate in the network and 75% of all hospitals which have applied to the board to participate in the network shall have access to the network by July 1, 2004.”<sup>6</sup> In 2007, a Legislative Post Audit report indicated that about “90% of eligible entities” had become members of the KAN-ED network.<sup>7</sup> The 2010 KAN-ED Annual Report says that “94% of eligible organizations are active members.” Consequently, per the statute, KAN-ED “has declared that all organizations eligible for membership are now considered to be members.”<sup>8</sup>
- The marketplace has caught up with the demand the Legislature identified in 2001/2002. KAN-ED has completed its product life cycle. The program incentivized industry to develop broadband infrastructure to schools, libraries, and hospitals. Access is ubiquitous.
- Approximately 50% of the KAN-ED budget is dedicated to operating the now-obsolete private network.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.kan-ed.org/AnnualReports/2006AnnualReport.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.kan-ed.org/AnnualReports/2003AnnualReport.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> [http://kansasstatutes.lesterama.org/Chapter\\_75/Article\\_72/75-7224.html](http://kansasstatutes.lesterama.org/Chapter_75/Article_72/75-7224.html)

<sup>7</sup> Kansas Legislative Post Audit, “Kan-ed: A K-Goal Audit Determining Whether It’s Achieving the Intended Results,” October 2007, p. 8.

<sup>8</sup> Appendix 2, p. 1: <http://www.kan-ed.org/images/AnnualReports/fy2010evaluationannualperformancereport.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> KAN-ED Budget Narrative for FY2012:

<http://www.kan-ed.org/images/AnnualReports/kan-ed%20budget%20request.pdf>

### **The Traditional Services Offered by KAN-ED have Proliferated**

- A federal government program known as E-Rate is an important feature of the KAN-ED story. It is a subsidy program for schools and libraries, financed out of the federal Universal Service Fund. KAN-ED itself applies for and receives E-Rate subsidies, which are funds received in addition to its KUSF funding. This is wise management from a KAN-ED perspective but calls into question any rationale for KAN-ED competing with the private sector. KAN-ED essentially provides free services to its members. But the E-Rate program would cover most of the cost of these membership-entities using commercial vendors.
- The modern internet has made the KAN-ED private network obsolete. Consequently, the services provided by KAN-ED offer the only compelling rationale for continuing KAN-ED. When KAN-ED began, many of the services they provided were unique (or costly) because of the relative immaturity of broadband internet. That situation has changed dramatically. Most of the KAN-ED services are now readily available in the marketplace and the KAN-ED membership base can access federal government E-Rate subsidies to pay for their use over the public internet.<sup>10</sup> KAN-ED, as well as private internet service providers, offer counseling services related to acquiring E-Rate subsidies.
- KAN-ED provides the service offerings listed in the table below. These services are offered, according to the KAN-ED Web site, in order to “encourage the use of the network infrastructure.”<sup>11</sup> That motivation is now obsolete—other than to enhance KAN-ED’s goals for expanding its mission to compete with the private sector for customers.

<b>KAN-ED Service</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Video conferencing for distance learning and collaboration	Appendix A lists 20 vendors that offer software and/or services over the public internet; some, like Skype, are free. It also lists 11 distance learning consortiums in Kansas that need only the public internet to function.
Empowered Desktop—a portal that offers a package of tools for teachers and students.	The operation of this portal could be easily transferred to the Kansas Department of Education. The KAN-ED 2012 budget projects \$1.08 million for this service.
KAN-EDLiveTutor.com—an age-specific student help service.	The operation of this service could be easily transferred to the Kansas Department of Education.
EMResource—an information tool for emergency responders and health professionals.	This service requires only an internet connection and a dedicated computer that accesses the provider’s website ( <a href="http://www.emsystem.com">www.emsystem.com</a> ). This service is financed with a \$190,000 grant to the Kansas Hospital Association.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.olis.ri.gov/grants/erate/eligible.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.kan-ed.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=61](http://www.kan-ed.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=62&Itemid=61)

## Redeploy KAN-ED Resources

- KAN-ED served a useful role in the earliest days of high-speed internet. The \$10 million budget has greater potential if used elsewhere or retuned to taxpayers.
- If KAN-ED ceased to operate, its members would notice no difference in internet functionality. They are connected to high-speed internet already; that infrastructure will remain. As with all change, there would be an adjustment period with regard to accessing services from alternative sources.
- Rural broadband deployment beyond the KAN-ED mission could be a productive way to redeploy KAN-ED KUSF funds. A national debate is taking place with regard to the use of both the federal government and state government Universal Service Funds. Current rules make the money available only to local telecommunication companies for voice and video services; technically, broadband is not a legitimate use of USF money, but modern technology has allowed broadband internet services to piggyback on these more traditional services. The Federal Communications Commission has released a notice of proposed rulemaking which, in part, seeks to authorize USF money for broadband deployment to genuinely unserved communities.<sup>12</sup>

A program known as Connect Kansas, run through the Kansas Department of Commerce, has mapped access to broadband services. Map 1 shows the percentage of households served by broadband internet (except satellite service), based on a definition put forward in the National Broadband Plan (4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload speeds).<sup>13</sup>

Based on the National Broadband Plan definition, and using Connect Kansas data, the Kansas Corporation Commission finds that an average of 99.41% of Kansas households have access to broadband internet. Twenty-six counties (shaded on Map 1) are below this average.

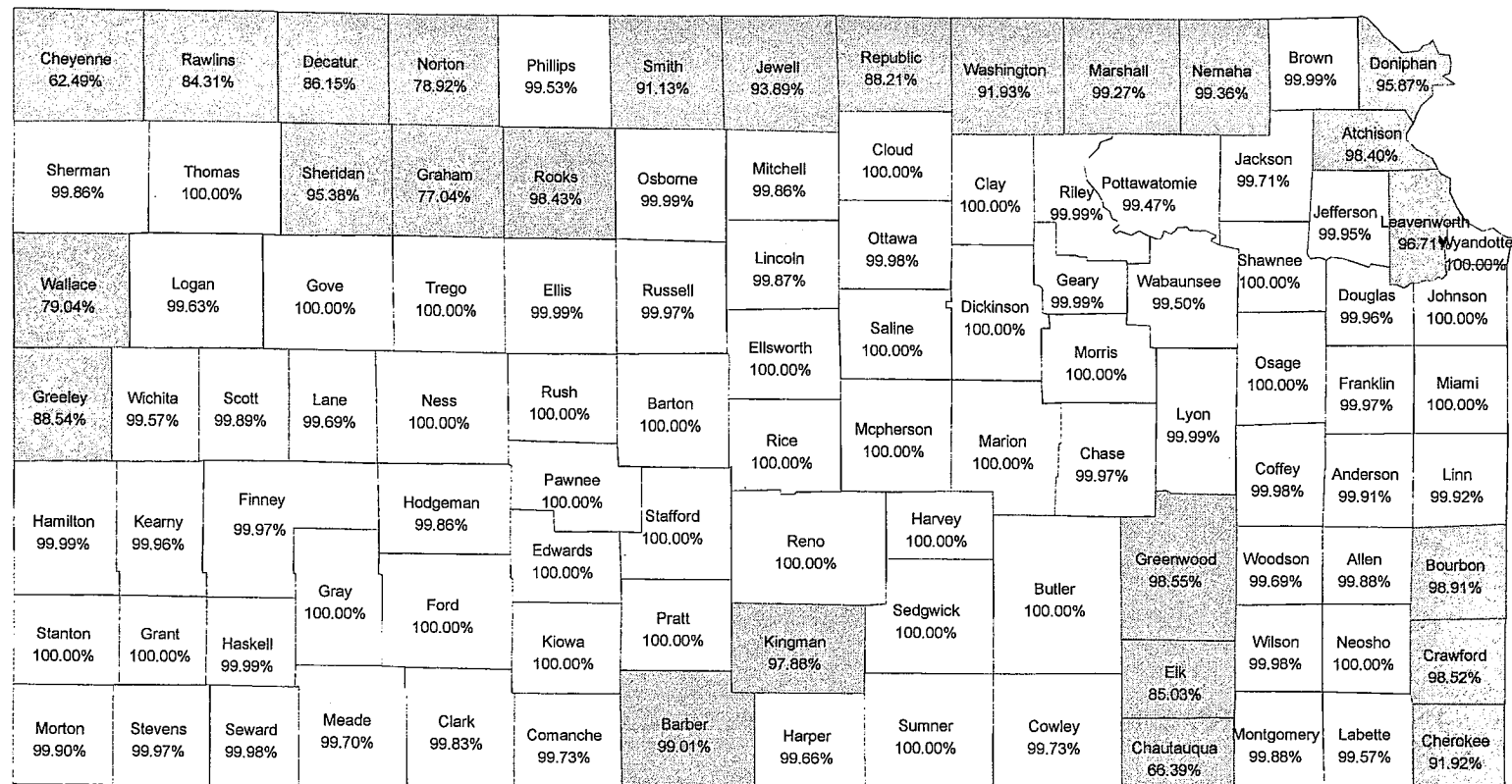
- KAN-ED members would no doubt miss their “free” KUSF-funded connectivity. They would no longer be subsidized twice through both the KAN-ED network and the federal E-Rate program. However, the goal of KAN-ED was connectivity. That goal is accomplished. If Kansas wants to have a “free internet” policy—and have a taxpayer-funded organization competing directly with private businesses for customers—it should be debated and codified in statute.

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.fcc.gov/Daily\\_Releases/Daily\\_Business/2011/db0209/FCC-11-15A1.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0209/FCC-11-15A1.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> The data comes from Attachment D of the Kansas Corporation Commission “Report to the Legislature Regarding the Availability of Broadband Services in the State of Kansas,” January 14, 2011. The report uses data from Connect Kansas.

14-6

# Map 1: Percent of Housholds with Broadband Internet Access



**Key**  
 ■ Below State Average  
 □ Above State Average

## Appendix A

### Internet-Based Conferencing Resources

Sources:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web\\_conferencing#History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_conferencing#History)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_web\\_conferencing\\_software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_web_conferencing_software)

**Adobe Connect** is software used to create information and general presentations, online training materials, web conferencing, learning modules, and user desktop sharing.

**BigBlueButton** is an open source web conferencing system developed primarily for distance education.

**Elluminate Live!** is a web conferencing program developed by Elluminate Inc. Elluminate "rents" out virtual rooms or vSpaces where virtual schools and businesses can hold classes and meetings.

**Fuze Meeting** is an online meeting and collaboration software package that enables users to host and attend web based conferences and share their desktop screen with other remote users via the web and mobile devices, similar to Adobe Connect.

**Genesys** provides multimedia collaboration and conferencing services to thousands of organizations worldwide.

**LotusLive** is a suite of business networking and collaboration cloud-based services hosted by the Lotus Software division of IBM. The integrated services include social networking for businesses, online meetings, file sharing, instant message, data visualization and e-mail.

**MegaMeeting.com** facilitates web-based conferences complete with real time audio, video, and presentation capabilities.

**Microsoft Office Live Meeting** is a commercial subscription-based web conferencing service operated by Microsoft.

**omNovia Technologies** is a software company that provides web conferencing solutions for real-time, rich-media online meetings, webinars, webcasts and eLearning sessions with two to 5,000 interactive participants.

**Openmeetings** is software used for presenting, online training, web conferencing, collaborative whiteboard drawing and document editing, and user desktop sharing.

**Oracle Beehive** is collaboration platform software developed by Oracle Corporation that combines email, team collaboration, instant messaging, and conferencing in a single solution. It can be deployed on premise as licensed software or as software as a service (SaaS).

**PGi, or Premiere Global Services, Inc.,** is a multinational corporation and global provider of conferencing and collaboration solutions. Its products include audio conferencing, web conferencing, videoconferencing and virtual meeting solutions. PGi provides global SaaS (Software as a Service) and cloud computing solutions to small, medium and enterprise businesses.

**ShowDocument** is an online web application that allows multiple users to conduct web meetings, upload, share and review documents from remote locations.

**Skype** (pronounced /'skarp/) is a software application that allows users to make voice calls over the Internet. Calls to other users within the Skype service are free, while calls to both traditional landline telephones and mobile phone can be made for a fee using a debit-based user account system. Skype has also become popular for its additional features which include instant messaging, file transfer, and video conferencing.

**TimeBridge** is a Web-based software application for coordinating and running meetings and collaborating online. TimeBridge's meeting management service works with large groups or one-on-one meetings across time zones and companies and integrates directly with Microsoft Outlook, Google Calendar and Apple iCal. TimeBridge also includes phone and Web conferencing options. TimeBridge also includes phone and Web conferencing options as well as SMS features and an iPhone application.

**TokBox** is a web application that allows users to make multi-party video chat calls over the Internet without a download.

**VenueGen** is a browser-based web conferencing service created and marketed by The Venue Network. It is a 3D virtual meeting software that enables users to interact with each other through avatars. Users can host and attend meetings, conferences, and trainings with other colleagues and upload rich media into virtual meeting rooms for real-time collaboration.

**WebEx Communications Inc.** is a Cisco company that provides on-demand collaboration, online meeting, web conferencing and videoconferencing applications. Its products include Meeting Center, Training Center, Event Center, Support Center, Sales Center, MeetMeNow, PCNow, WebEx AIM Pro Business Edition, WebEx WebOffice, and WebEx Connect.

**WebTrain** Communications provides web conferencing services for educational training, business meetings, presentation webinars and live auctions.

**Yuuguu** is a desktop sharing and web conferencing application and the software company.



Kansas Distance Learning Consortiums (from kan-ed.org)

**A PLUS Network** (<http://www.interlocal625.org/>) Ten schools in SW Kansas formed a consortium in 1989 to share classes over an Interactive Distance Learning network. Currently, there are 16 IDL classrooms in ten Unified School Districts.

**Connected Kansas Kids** (<http://www.connectedkansaskids.com>) **Connected Kansas Kids (CKK)** is a program that provides information about physical and mental health diagnoses to education professionals, health care professionals, child care providers, clergy, athletic coaches, scout leaders, and others interested in learning how to support the needs of this population of children and adolescents. Currently, 60 presentations are available, at no cost to participants, for staff development, paraprofessional training, CEUs, student learning and to interested community members. To view the list of currently available presentation topics, click here

**Greenbush Network** (<http://www.greenbush.org/idl/index.cfm>)- The programs in the attached calendars are available to any Kan-Ed site throughout the state. Academic programs in the areas of Science, Social Studies, Math, and Language Arts/Reading are offered throughout the year via the distance learning network. All academic programs are aligned to Kansas standards and developed by certified teaching staff in the Greenbush Interactive Distance Learning department and the Abernathy Science Education Center. A monthly Academic Program Calendar is provided to participating schools so teachers may register for events. Visit the Academic Programs or view Greenbush Spring 2011 Calendar.

**High Southwest Plains Network** (<http://www.swprsc.org/>)

**I-CAN Network** (<http://www.ican-ks.org/index.asp?DocumentID=673>) The primary mission of the Interactive Consortium Academic Network (I-CAN) is to provide a wide array of educational courses for all students of participating schools in a collaborative manner to mutually benefit all school districts to facilitate course offerings not presently available in existing curriculums. I-CAN provides the community patrons the opportunity to enroll in college courses to earn degrees and for certification in areas of need.

**KU Medical Center Continuing Education**

(<http://www.continuinged.ku.edu/kumc/about.php>) If you are looking for programs accredited for continuing medical or nursing education, KU Medical Center Continuing Education has a wide range of programs to help meet your needs. KU Medical Center Continuing Education works in close affiliation with KU's area health centers in Garden City, Hays, and Pittsburg. For more information, please contact Dale Grube at 913-588-4466 or [dgrube@kumc.edu](mailto:dgrube@kumc.edu)

**North Central Kansas Distance Learning Network**

(<http://www.bartonccc.edu/itv/ncdln.html>) The North Central Distance Learning Network currently encompasses 6 partner schools that are connected to Barton County Community College. The 5 original network partners consist of Russell High School, Lucas-Luray High

School, Wilson High School, Quivira Heights High School and Victoria High School. Claflin High School became the 6th partner in 2005. The instructional television (ITV) equipment utilized by the NCDLN operates by using the H.323 video over IP protocol, Polycom technology and dedicated T1 lines. Sites are equipped with computers, overhead projectors and screens, phone/fax machines, document cameras (Elmo), Polycom systems, monitors, instructor camera's, and Interwrite pads. The dedicated T1 lines are in the process of being changed over to local ISP's at each of the partner locations. Currently, on campus there are two main host send/receive sites (rooms F-164 & T-103). Barton has the capability to send/receive classes from several other ITV equipped rooms at campuses in Great Bend, Junction City and Ft. Riley. In the NCDLN network there are six (6) send/receive sites consisting of the 6 current partner locations.

**Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center** (<http://www.nkesc.org/>)

**Pioneer Health Network** (<http://www.phn.org>) The Pioneer Health Network is an association of 16 hospitals located in southwest Kansas. We strive to work together to improve the availability, variety and quality of healthcare in the communities we serve. We do this by pooling our resources and working together to improve the education and communication opportunities for our leadership, management and staff. PHN 2011 Calendar

#### **Polycom Searchable**

**Database** ([http://www.polycom.com/solutions/industry/education/programs\\_resources/special\\_events.html](http://www.polycom.com/solutions/industry/education/programs_resources/special_events.html)) This database, sponsored by Polycom, Inc., contains programs from content providers such as zoos and museums that offer IP (H.323) videoconferencing programs. Berrien RESA has researched this information to the best of our knowledge. If you have any corrections or updates, please email them to [vcintern@berrienresa.org](mailto:vcintern@berrienresa.org).

#### **Polycom Content Access Program**

([http://www.polycom.com/solutions/industry/education/programs\\_resources/content\\_access\\_program.html](http://www.polycom.com/solutions/industry/education/programs_resources/content_access_program.html)) Video conferencing solutions offer many opportunities to enhance curriculum and promote proficiencies for teaching and learning. Educators can enhance their curriculum, connect with colleagues and peers, and expand the reach of their classroom with live, relevant and culturally rich interactive learning experiences. PCAP is designed for new Polycom customers or customers who seldom connect with content providers to experience the power of this educational tool. Polycom will provide a virtual field trip to jump start your video conferencing experience.

#### **Polycom Events for Educators**

([http://www.polycom.com/solutions/industry/education/programs\\_resources/special\\_events.html](http://www.polycom.com/solutions/industry/education/programs_resources/special_events.html)) Every day, educators and trainers are tasked with providing a wide range of content and services to administrators, staff, students, stakeholders, and employees. Yet even as they provide so many services, organizations must reduce operational costs and save resources while preparing and sustaining learners for today's world and its increasingly global economy. Polycom offers affordable and easy-to use—not to mention the most comprehensive—classroom and training solutions available today. Even as they enable a rich and productive learning experience, innovative Polycom solutions improve collaboration through natural interaction,

allow for quicker decision-making, and extend your organization's geographical reach. In addition, Polycom solutions empower organizations like yours to function more efficiently on a daily basis, enable global partnerships, increase enrollment, and allow connection and interactions with remote subject matter experts.

**Smoky Hill Distance Learning Network** (<http://www.smokyhill.org/>) The purpose of the Smoky Hill Distance Learning network is to assist school districts in the Smoky Hill Education Service Center area in utilizing technology to meet educational needs of students.

**South Central Kansas Distance Learning Network** (<http://www.sckesc.org/Services/InteractiveDistanceLearning/default.aspx>) - South Central Kansas Distance Learning Network is a consortium of Unified School Districts in the South Central Kansas area. The network provides high school and college course scheduling over video conference technology as well as technical support and training. Enrichment programs are also scheduled for all ages using video conferencing from all over the United States and other countries.

**TEEN (Technology Excellence in Education) Network** (<http://www.teen632.org/>) The T.E.E.N. consortium, located in Marion and Dickinson counties in Kansas, has been established to enable five districts to share resources for the mutual benefit of the students enrolled in the Unified School Districts of Centre, Herington, Hillsboro, Marion, and Peabody. TEEN provides excellent instruction and challenging academic preparation for secondary students, provides a base to inservice a supportive network of people, and builds a cooperative relationship among teachers, administrators, members of school boards, parents and other policy makers in all five communities.

**Dina Fisk**

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**House General Government Budget  
HB 2390**

March 22, 2011

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dina Fisk and I appear today on behalf of Verizon Wireless providing support for HB 2390.

Although Kan-Ed may be a worthwhile program, the funding mechanism for Kan-Ed has been a concern for many years. In 2009, Kan-Ed funding was phased-out from the KUSF and was to be funded by the State General Fund like other important programs. Instead, Kan-Ed has been funded from the KUSF \$10 million each year since 2002, while other agencies and programs have been cut over the years due to budget restraints. Because Kan-Ed is an educational program that is intended to benefit all citizens of the state, if it is needed, then it should be paid for by the state general fund, or become self-funding by users of the Kan-Ed network.

As a result of funding Kan-Ed \$10 million each year from the KUSF, Kansas has the third largest state fund in the nation, behind only the much larger states of California and Texas, and also one of the highest total tax loads on telecommunications customers. The KUSF is already too high at approximately \$74 million in 2010, in part due to the \$10 million going to Kan-Ed, which is by far its highest funded program.<sup>1</sup> The \$74 million KUSF results in a 6.64% surcharge to each telecommunications customer's bill in Kansas and that is in addition to the federal universal service surcharge and all other taxes already assessed – making Kansas residents some the most heavily taxed consumers of telecommunications services in the nation. Citizens of this state would be better served by legislative efforts to decrease Kansas's citizen's extraordinary tax burden.

If Kan-Ed cannot be self-funding or important enough to be funded from the State General Fund, then I encourage you to vote YES to repeal Kan-Ed.

Thank you, and I stand for questions.

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 15

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<sup>1</sup> KCC Calculation of KUSF Requirement (March 2011-2013) Kansas Relay Service, Inc. (KRSI) \$1,998,315; Telecommunications Access Program (TAP) \$814,173; Kan-Ed appropriations \$10,000,000.



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**Written Testimony of Patrick Fucik / Sprint  
In Support of HB 2390:  
Eliminating KAN-ED from KUSF  
House General Government Budget Committee  
March 29, 2011**

Chairman McLeland:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on behalf of Sprint in support of HB 2390.

Sprint is not taking a position on the merits of the KAN-ED program but is supportive of HB 2390 because it will reduce the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) by \$10 million as a result of eliminating funding for KAN-ED from the KUSF.

Sprint has been actively working to reduce the size of state universal service funds across the country because increased competition means that subsidies paid for by telecommunications consumers to other providers are obsolete.

Kansas is no exception. At \$78 Million, Kansas has the third largest state universal service fund in the nation, behind only California and Texas, and it has been growing significantly over the last several years. While the Kansas state budget has had to withstand severe budget cuts over the last several years, the KUSF has continued to grow.

The elimination of funding KAN-ED from the KUSF would help reduce the overall size of the KUSF and would reduce the amount of the KUSF surcharge that your constituents (many of them our customers) have to pay. The Kansas Corporation Commission has increased the KUSF assessment from 5% in 2009 to 6.18% in 2011, an increase of more than 20%! Any proposal that reduces the size of the KUSF, such as HB 2390, is welcome and supported by Sprint.

In conclusion, Sprint supports HB 2390 because it reduces the size of the KUSF and would reduce the KUSF assessment on Kansas consumer's bills. I encourage the Committee to pass HB 2390.

Thank you.

Patrick R. Fucik



Director, West Region  
Sprint State Government Affairs

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 16

# Plainville Public Schools

...where students walk through the doors of opportunity every day.

**USD 270**



Representative McLeland and members of the House General Government Budget Committee:

Concerning: HB 2390

Thank you for this opportunity to visit with you about the benefits that the two districts in which I have served as superintendent have received as members of Kan-Ed. Both districts are rural. Both districts have had declining enrollment. Both districts have been members of Kan-Ed since its inception. The two districts are Vermillion USD 380 and Plainville USD 270. I served in Vermillion for 10 years as a superintendent and am currently serving as superintendent in the Plainville district in my fifth year.

In the Vermillion district we received our services to Kan-Ed through the Blue Valley Telecommunications Company. In the Plainville district we use NexTech-Rural Telephone for most of our services from ITV through Internet access to telephone and cellular service.

We use Kan-Ed for access to the Desktop for both our students and for our teachers. We would not have the benefits of preparing students for the Kansas Assessments, helping students figure out their interests and plan their future, accessing the latest in research in many fields, or of getting help when they don't understand some phase of their academics without this service. Our high school students would not have access to dual credit classes in psychology, sociology, interpersonal communications, or speech without the benefits of the connections over the ITV that fall outside of our own network.

Abolishing the services of Kan-Ed would devastate education and communities in rural Kansas, by limiting opportunities and access to instructional resources for our students and teachers. I urge you to reject HB 2390.

Beth Reust  
Superintendent  
USD 270 Plainville

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 17

**Beth Reust**  
Superintendent of Schools  
111 West Mill, Plainville KS 67663  
Phone 785.434.4678

**Troy Keiswetter**  
High School Principal  
202 SE Cardinal, Plainville KS 67663  
Phone 785.434.4547

**Matthew Whitney**  
Grade School Principal  
203 SE Cardinal, Plainville KS 67663  
Phone 785.434.4508

BOARD MEMBERS - JOHN CRAWFORD - JESSI HRABE - DONNA BROWN - LOREN HEMPHILL - JAY FRIEND - TOM NUCKOLS - KEVIN RENK

Victoria is a town that rises starkly on the Kansas prairie and is home to the famous Cathedral of the Plains. We have two schools, a Pre-K through 6 building and a 7-12 Jr./Sr. High School. In the last three years we have lost over \$250,000 in budget authority. We have closed a building and laid off four teachers and one support staff member.

We are a vibrant community and our patrons are proud of their schools for both academic achievement and athletic achievement. We have earned the Governor's Achievement Award in Academics two out of the last three years. We have made Adequate Yearly Progress every year in all subjects and all grades and by our calculations we have made AYP in all areas again this year. We have several trips to the State football championships, basketball championships and the State Track Meet. Last year our track girls took first at State and this year our basketball boys took fourth at State.

We provide our students with a well-rounded curriculum including two foreign languages and higher math and science courses. Part of the main stay of our curriculum is classes offered through Barton County Community College using the Kan-Ed connection. At this time, we are using this connection for concurrent enrollment classes. As our funds get smaller and smaller, we are going to have to work with BCCC to offer some of our high school only classes.

The Kan-Ed connection is critical to us for providing these services to our students.

The Kan-Ed Desktop is one of the most valuable assets we have. This service, provided free to all schools in Kansas, is truly amazing. It provides a wealth of material for our students. Without access to the data bases on the Desktop our instruction will be deeply, deeply harmed. All of our students in grades 2-12 use the desktop on nearly a daily basis. It provides safe Internet searches for all students, especially our young ones. It is a free encyclopedia (World Book), translation service and document storage which allows students to work on projects at school and at home and on different computers. It is also the practice Test Builder which allows teachers to help prepare students for the KCA – the Kansas No Child Left Behind test. I cannot imagine our teachers not having access to these resources. The cost to replace them would be astronomical.

Our rural schools are suffering from the budget cuts we have had to endure. We are using technology to continue bringing quality education to our students. Kan-Ed has been our partner in doing this. Cutting this funding will be devastating.

I urge you to not pass out of this committee House Bill 2390.

Thank you,

Linda Kenne,  
Superintendent USD #432 Victoria  
[Supt432@ruraltel.net](mailto:Supt432@ruraltel.net) 785-735-9212

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 18

Date: March 22, 2011  
To: Representative Joe McLeland, Chairman  
Representative Pete DeGraaf, Vice Chairman  
Representative Tom Burroughs  
Representative Nile Dillmore  
Representative Ramon Gonzalez  
Representative Don Hineman  
Representative Kyle Hoffman  
Representative Jim Howell  
Representative Ron Ryckman  
From: Jim Minges, Director, Northeast Kansas Library System  
Re: HB2390

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Jim Minges and I am Director of the Northeast Kansas Library System. I am here to testify today about the importance of Kan-ed to libraries in our region and across Kansas, and to the residents they serve.

Kan-ed provides several services to libraries which in turn benefit the residents of Kansas including

- broadband access
- 24/7 access to electronic content
- Videoconferencing in meeting rooms

In your packet you have several pieces of information to illustrate these services. Kan-ed provides T1 lines to many libraries across Kansas. You have both a map and a list of libraries who benefit from a T1 line being provided to them from Kan-ed. You will note that the map shows all the libraries in Kansas and that while many libraries are currently benefitting from this, there are many more libraries which will benefit in the future as Kan-ed provides T1 lines to them. I have been working to bring broadband Internet service to libraries since before the creation of Kan-ed, and know the tremendous difference that Kan-ed has made. Before Kan-ed was created, only a handful of libraries enjoyed broadband access, and electronic databases were available only at large universities and urban libraries. Due to the efforts of Kan-ed, every public library in the 14 counties of Northeast Kansas now enjoys broadband Internet service with at least T1 bandwidth. Of 48 public libraries in Northeast Kansas, 40 receive a T1 broadband Internet connection from Kan-ed. Of those 40 libraries, 13 have no Internet connection other than that Kan-ed service.

If Kan-ed is eliminated, access to broadband will be denied or greatly reduced to the residents whose libraries already have T1 lines provided by Kan-ed and those who will benefit when the T1 line is added to their service. The impact on library service with no Internet service would be almost unimaginable, but it is exactly the outcome that some communities would face without Kan-ed. It is noteworthy that for approximately 40% of Kansas, the only access they have to broadband is through their public library. In some communities that now enjoy broadband service, the passage of HB 2390 would mean that libraries would not even be able to access their own online catalogs, and residents would be unable to file unemployment claims or tax returns, or use other e-government services.

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 19



Also in your packet you will find a list of databases which provide electronic content, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to all Kansans with Internet access. These are, of course, also available at all libraries – public, academic, school and special – across Kansas. In addition, all Kansans have access to Encyclopedia Britannica which is a great assistance in homework help. This eContent includes health information, access to over 150 newspapers, business information, job and career assistance, computer-related information, literature and history databases to assist student research, and much, much more. Usage information is included in your packet. This access would not be possible without Kan-ed's assistance in funding these subscriptions. Kan-ed also provides the Kan-ed Live Tutor service. This online chat tutoring service was used in over 47,000 tutoring sessions during FY2010.

Kan-ed also assists communities by placing Enhance Library Meeting Rooms (ELMeR) in many libraries. These ELMER videoconferencing units allow for visual communication over great distance, and are available to the public through public libraries. This is a very cost-effective and efficient means to meet because it eliminates driving time and expense. For these very same reasons, communication can be more frequent and improved. I am sure that many of you have found this to be true; I believe that you also have access to an ELMER unit at the Capitol – allowing for you to be in touch with your constituents when you are not able to be home in your district.

Thank you for allowing me to come before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have for me.

KANSAS  
ASSOCIATION



OF  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS



1420 SW Arrowhead Road • Topeka, Kansas 66604-4024  
785-273-3600

Testimony before the  
**House Appropriations Committee**  
on

**HB 2390 – Kan-ed**

by

**Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist**  
Kansas Association of School Boards

**March 21, 2011**

Mr. Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 2390. We are an opponent.

KASB has been a supporter of Kan-ed since its inception. Particularly in the early days of the Internet, rural school and libraries were not able to offer technological access that those in urban enjoyed. Through Kan-ed, all schools, but particularly rural schools, have been able to not only access hardware and access, they have come to use it to become more efficient. By using Kan-ed, teachers have access to lesson plans and other good practice. But the most important use of Kan-ed has been the ability for schools to band together to bring classes to students in sparsely populated areas they could not enjoy using their only their staff. It just doesn't make sense to us to dismantle a program that is making school districts more efficient when resources are being reduced.

The bill also is at odds with KASB's thinking on resources in general. The money being spent would not be directed to the SGF. Rather, the fees that currently are funding the program would simply not be collected, essentially a tax cut. It does not make sense to cut taxes in when we are cutting support to schools.

Also, keep in mind district budgets are being prepared. Shutting down Kan-ed in this quick of a time frame is a real crisis for districts as they scramble to replace hardware and access they would be denied. Please allow at least another year for districts to make this difficult transition.

Thank you for your consideration.

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 20

# The University of Kansas Medical Center

Center for TeleMedicine & TeleHealth

Testimony from  
Ryan Spaulding, PhD  
Director, Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth  
KU Medical Center  
before the  
General Government Budget Committee  
March 22, 2011

Chairman McLeland and members of the committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 2390, which would eliminate Kan-ed. My name is Ryan Spaulding and I am the Director of the Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC). I am also a Research Associate Professor in the Health Policy and Management department. I want to emphasize that the perspectives in this testimony represent the views of the Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth and do not represent the official policy of the University of Kansas Medical Center or the views of university administration.

We have been providing telemedicine services from KUMC to hospitals and schools around the state since 1991. This makes us the longest-running telemedicine program in the United States. Telemedicine involves caring for patients from a distance, using live, interactive consultations over high-definition videoconference systems and integrated peripheral medical devices such as an electronic otoscope or stethoscope. These video systems require reliable, high quality, secure Internet bandwidth to work effectively and facilitate health care to underserved Kansans. Kan-ed has been the only network in Kansas that provides these important elements, so I am writing to express my support of the Kan-ed network.

Whether for pediatric epilepsy, adult oncology, mental health services or the many other clinical specialties we provide, we have used the Kan-ed network to "bring the doctor to the patient" at many Kan-ed member sites over the years. Prior to the existence of Kan-ed, we either used very expensive telephone lines or various broadband solutions that used the "public" Internet, all of which resulted in a complex system that lacked quality and uniformity. In contrast, Kan-ed provides a stable, standardized and affordable platform from which to deliver these services with better quality and more security for Kansas patients.

In addition, telemedicine allows underserved patients to receive health care in their home communities from familiar health care professionals. By doing so, they reduce their travel costs while helping the local hospital or clinic retain revenue locally. Because telemedicine increases access and patients are able to see physicians sooner, it may also help prevent more expensive health care treatment at a later time. The Kan-ed network plays an integral role in all of these personal, health and economic benefits.

Our latest initiative, Kansas TeleStroke, is literally a lifesaving neurology service that will use the Kan-ed network at participating hospitals. It will allow rural Kansas stroke patients to "see" a KUMC vascular neurologist from their local emergency department via telemedicine and receive urgent stroke treatment. Timely intervention in this manner can substantially improve patient outcomes while significantly reducing long-term health care costs. Again, Kan-ed provides the network that will most effectively support this critical intervention.

In sum, it would be difficult to continue providing telemedicine services in Kansas without Kan-ed's network. The Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth supports continued funding of the Kan-ed initiative.

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 21

Technology Excellence in Education Network  
701 E. Main  
Marion, Kansas 66861  
March 21, 2011

Dear Kansas Legislators:

I am writing to ask you to support Kan-Ed and oppose House Bill 2390. I represent 5 school districts; Peabody USD398, Hillsboro USD410, Marion USD408, Centre USD397, and Herington USD487 and know how important Kan-Ed is to our survival. Each one of my schools relies on the services they receive from Kan-Ed and the elimination of it would hurt students and the educational process.

With the help of Kan-Ed we are able to connect to the Kan-Ed network which allows our video network to connect to locations that otherwise would be out of our reach. Our students are able to receive classes that my schools are unable to offer. Being able to offer more for our students allow them to expand their education outside of our walls. To take that away would be detrimental to the students.

Kan-Ed also allows us to connect to Internet. This allows my network to share a Demark point and share costs of high bandwidth. With the low cost of the Kan-Ed connection this makes it possible for all of my schools to reap the reward of having high speed Internet. Students are able to utilize online applications that are extremely interactive, without high speed Internet this could not be done. All of my schools are small rural districts and would not be able to afford what they receive through Kan-Ed.

The Kan-Ed desktop and its services are some of the most widely used through most schools. The students utilize the services for email, data storage, and research data bases. Teachers use the Test Builder to prepare students for state regulated tests. If you allow Kan-Ed to be eliminated these services would cease to exist and hurt both teachers and students. I know keeping Kan-Ed active poses many questions that should be answered, but you owe it to your constituents and our children's' future to oppose House Bill 2390.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Brandi Hendrix, Executive Director  
Technology Excellence in Educational Network

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 22

March 21, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of keeping Kan-Ed funded at its current funding. (HB2390 Eliminating Kaned). Seaman USD345 has found Kaned's resources to be invaluable to our teachers and district personnel.

1. Many teachers access the online tools located in the Empowered Desktop allowing teachers access free resources that the district would have to have a subscription to receive, i.e. netTrekker d.i, World Book Online to name a few.
2. Teachers and students have access to a Backpack storage feature sharing class projects and students can continue access at home.
3. The KanedLiveTutor provides students' access to an online tutor support from 2pm until Midnight every day -and a skills resource library available 24/7 in topics of homework, Test Prep and Career Resources.
4. The TestBuilder allows teachers to create and share formative tests to assess their students' current level and differentiate instruction to accommodate their learning gaps. Reports from TestBuilder allow teachers to see how their classroom is doing as well as individual students to make decisions on instruction from the data.
5. Through an Interactive Distance Learning Kaned grant, our district was to purchase the necessary equipment and network connection to provide access to IDL classes enhancing the curriculum available to our students.

Eliminating Kaned not only impacts our K-12 teachers and students but other Kansas communities, Libraries, Hospitals and Higher Education as well. Please find a way to STOP HP2390 Eliminating Kaned. With projected cuts to education funding, school districts would not be able to fund these resources independently.

Sincerely,

Mike mathes

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment : 23

802 Baum  
P.O. Box 156  
Natoma, KS 67651-0156  
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[www.ican-ks.org](http://www.ican-ks.org)

## ***I-CAN***

### ***Interactive Consortium Academic Network***

March 21, 2011

Dear General Government Budget Committee Members:

Please vote NO to HB 2390! Since the inception of Kan-ed they have worked very hard at helping K-12, higher-education, hospitals and libraries in the state of Kansas through the creation of the statewide backbone. This is funded through the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) at \$10,000,000 per year by assessing an "average" of .25 cents per phone line/per month on a monthly phone bill. All of the Kan-ed services are purchased or leased from private companies, therefore passing this considerable savings on to their constituents of K-12, higher-education, hospitals and libraries. With school budgets being cut and even looking worse in the coming year, it will be extremely difficult to continue utilizing these services if districts have to go out and purchase them individually. Without Kan-ed all network and video connections, Renovo Video Scheduler, licenses, servers, MCU, Kan-ed Live Tutor (homework Kansas), Empowered Desktop and LS test builder will be gone! Hopefully our local telephone company can keep us going within our own network, but this once again takes us back ten years by not being able to get connected statewide or worldwide.

The I-CAN Network is made up of ten small school districts in northwest and north central Kansas. As members of Kan-ed we utilize several of their services, one of the most important is the distance learning network. With school budgets extremely tight we rely heavily on distance learning. Without this statewide backbone it will be difficult, if not impossible, to continue sending and receiving the necessary classes our districts need to provide our students to prepare them for the Regents Universities requirements. Kan-ed connections and services will go away if Kan-ed is dismantled. A router is required for scheduling classes, which would be available at the cost of \$160,000 per consortium! Our consortium and school districts are not prepared to fund this kind of cost! Kan-ed already provides this service which we, along with many other districts in the state, utilize on a daily basis. Kan-ed over the years has provided grants to constituents to be able to afford upgrading their equipment which is required to continue distance learning.

We are NOT in support of the legislature eliminating Kan-ed or their funding! Kan-ed is absolutely necessary for our school districts in the state of Kansas!

Sincerely,



Cynthia L. Beisner  
Director, I-CAN

House General Government Committee

Date: 03-29-2011

Attachment: 24

**Testimony Prepared for the  
Kansas House  
Standing Committee on General Government Budget  
Tuesday, March 22, 2011**

Caleb H. May, MLS  
Director, Meade Public Library  
P.O. Box 609,  
104 E. West Plains,  
Meade, KS 67864  
(620) 873-2522  
director@meadelibrary.info

Good morning. My name is Caleb May and I am the director of the Meade Public Library in Meade, KS. Though I have only been in the Meade community for a year, I am originally from a small town in northeast Kansas and am very familiar with the essential role that small public libraries play in the lives of rural Kansans.

Personally, I would describe myself as a strong fiscal conservative and I am painfully aware that in tough economic times especially, cuts have to be made across the board. However, small public libraries in Kansas have been cut consistently over the past 8 years primarily in a substantial decline of our general state aid, but also because of the state government placing more financial burdens on the shoulders of county and municipal governments thereby shrinking the available funds for libraries.

Fundamentally we have to ask ourselves what are the essential roles of government in our society and who is positioned best to provide those functions. I believe that the American government should be oriented from bottom to top rather than from top down. Since "We the People" are the government, in order to remain informed regarding information crucial to hold our elected officials accountable, we must have access to the World Wide Web. The only institution currently offering free access to high-speed internet in rural Kansas communities is the public library. With increasing patronage and library use and decreasing sources of funding the rural Kansas public library is at its breaking point.

The legislation before you, HB2390, would, "abolish," Kan-Ed and, "utilize a competitive bidding process to select a neutral, competent and bonded third party to administer the KUSF." Do you really want to subject the future of rural Kansas libraries to the whims of the private sector? Essential government functions, such as access to information through libraries, do not always make sense in a purely dog-eat-dog economy. We have to ask ourselves if investing in the future of our democratic republic is worth the expense. Information technology administration,

unlike competitive bidding in a bricks and mortar-type endeavor, would be much more likely to exist entirely outside of the state of Kansas. Why should we contribute to the continued outsourcing of the Kansas economy? Is Kan-Ed perfect? Probably not. Could it be improved? Probably so, but it is generally not prudent to throw out the baby with the bath water.

Kan-Ed currently provides small Kansas libraries with affordable high-speed internet without which our library would be crippled. For remote communities like Meade, high-speed internet provides not only the convenience of accessing information in a timely manner, but also connects us with the outside world.

Currently all inter-library loan requests are processed through a third-party networking software system that connects us to libraries throughout the state, and also nationwide. Without high-speed internet access inter-library loan would require an immense increase in man-hours which cannot be maintained by a small library and would thus eliminate our patrons' access to information. Meade Public Library borrows approximately 100 materials per month from other libraries and lends 70 materials per month to other libraries. Almost 2,000 materials would be unavailable to patrons from our library and those of other surrounding communities.

Another essential function requiring high-speed internet is cataloging. Without high-speed internet access each library would have to purchase bibliographic records for every item added to the collection, thus increasing cost and decreasing available materials. We would also have to find an off-line analog method of managing our collection – remember the old, card catalog? Manually thumbing through cards in an effort to find the item you are seeking.

Circulation would also be turned back 30 years as we would no longer be able to scan items for check-out, but would have to stamp each card. This would not only be time-consuming, but increase the non-return of library materials.

Currently my patrons have direct access through our automation system to databases such as Gale academic journals, genealogical research, and Chilton automotive repair manuals. These services would be rendered unattainable without high-speed internet. Currently we have 2 ½ yards of shelf space taken up with outdated Chilton auto repair manuals from the 1980's and 90's. If our patrons lose access to the online databases we will be forced to acquire new Chilton manuals which are very costly and require prohibitive amounts of shelf space – and this is simply one example. Imagine libraries keeping roles upon roles of microfiche records.



The state of Kansas is making efforts to revitalize rural areas and attract investment businesses and residents from outside of the state. Without vibrant, 21<sup>st</sup> century libraries, how do we possibly expect reasonable, educated individuals to invest their futures in an area which the government of the state of Kansas has abandoned? A six hour round trip drive to a bookstore makes it difficult for even middle-class Kansans to acquire affordable educational, informational, and recreational information.

At the Meade library we have seen a decrease in state funding from \$1,371 in 2002 to \$862 in 2010 – a decrease of \$507 in only eight years which amounts to a 37% decrease in revenue. Over that same period of time, we have seen a increase in the number of patrons using the library, especially in areas related to Kan-Ed discounts (i.e. interlibrary loan, access to online databases, educational uses of computers, and online public access catalog searching.) Peter Haxton, State Data Center Coordinator, tells me that over the last five years public libraries in Kansas have seen an increase of over 1.1 million internet computer users.

In conclusion, rural Kansas public libraries depend upon the services made available because of Kan-Ed funding. Should you choose to cut the services made available to rural Kansas libraries by Kan-Ed and fail to replace it by any equivalent funding increase from another source, the days of the rural Kansas public library are numbered. Many will be forced to close in a number of months, not years and with each closure of a public library a cascading effect on the remaining libraries would ultimately result in tens of thousands of Kansans without access to the basic means of information and knowledge acquisition requisite for successful self-government. As the director of a rural Kansas library, I urge you to vote NO on HB2390.

"An investment in knowledge always pays interest." Benjamin Franklin

"Don't join the book-burners. Don't be afraid to go in your library and read every book." Eisenhower

"I cannot live without books." Thomas Jefferson

"A man has no ears for that to which experience has given him no access."  
Nietzsche

"An army of principles can penetrate where an army of soldiers cannot." Thomas  
Payne

"Beware of the man with one book." Thomas Aquinas

"What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives  
everything its value." Thomas Paine

"Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure  
reliance for the preservation of our liberty." Thomas Jefferson

"Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own  
government." Thomas Jefferson

"Where the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe." Thomas Jefferson

"An educated people can be easily governed." Frederick The Great

"Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army." Edward Everett

"Reading builds the educated and informed electorate so vital to our democracy."  
Brad Henry