



A DIVISION OF WALLBUILDERS

**Testimony before the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Regarding SB 224
March 7, 2023**

Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee:

My name is Bette Grande, I am the Policy Director for the Pro-Family Legislative Network. Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

The ESG and social credit movement is big and growing, today we are focusing on this Bill and the people of Nebraska. I am also providing supplemental testimony with much more detail and links to source documents for the Committee if you want to dig deeper.

This is a comprehensive Bill that puts the interest of Kansans first. And, as stewards of public money this Bill ensures that public money is invested and spent only with companies and institutions that align with the best interest of the State.

SB 224 covers four important areas. First, for public pensions in the state it requires divestment (with important safeguards) from companies engaging in ideological boycotts. And, it provides that the voting of shares in companies you do invest in will be done with the best interests of Kansas. Simply put public money should only be invested in companies aligned with your best interests.

Sections 15-19 of SB 224 relates to the deposit of public money and prohibits deposits with financial institutions with assets of \$20 billion or more which are Listed Financial Company under this Bill.

Second, Section 21 prohibits public contracts valued at \$100,000 or more with companies that do not certify that they do not participate in ideological boycotts.

Third, beginning in Section 24 this Bill offers protection to the people and small businesses in Kansas. Simply put, this is a sunshine provision that ensures consumers will receive notice when

their financial institution changes the way it does business. This Bill does not tell private businesses how they are to act or who they serve as customers.

The Bill is not a regulatory burden. If a bank continues to operate as it has for generations including the traditional 5 Cs of credit - this Bill requires nothing. But if a bank chooses – or is forced to implement ESG criteria by its correspondent bank – the Bill requires disclosure to consumers. If it is no longer business as usual, consumers need to know. Providing consumer notice is a small price to pay for transparency.

Fourth, the Bill offers important consumer protection by requiring informed consent on their individual investments. Investment advisors are required to disclose that a business engages in ideological boycotts to their clients. Individuals are free to choose where to invest their money, this Bill merely requires full disclosure – sunshine.

This is an important Bill to protect the people of Kansas, small businesses in Kansas, and they key economic sectors in Kansas.

With that I am happy to stand for questions.

For Liberty,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bette Grande".

Bette Grande, Policy Director for WallBuilders ProFamily Legislative Network