



Written Only Testimony in Support of S.B. 373

Brittany Jones

Senate Federal & State Affairs

February 12, 2023

Chair Thompson and members of the committee, my name is Brittany Jones. I am an attorney, and I am the Director of Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice. We advocate for thousands of families across our state with diverse views on issues and strategies. What most agree on is that their taxes should not be used to fund groups to lobby against their interests. That is why we testify in support of S.B. 373.

S.B. 373 empowers the people's voice over those of government lobbyists. Government entities are still allowed to make their voice heard, however it creates a more level playing field when they do engage with this body. More than fifteen states have limitations on taxpayer funded lobbying. This is not a new concept.

Allowing the government to use tax dollars to lobby against taxpayers is antithetical to our system of limited government. When local communities, schools, and agencies should be clearly speaking in support or in opposition to something, taxpayer funded lobbying allows government officials to hide behind lobbyist rather than take responsibilities for the policies they advocate for or against.

Asking taxpayers to foot the bill for those who may be advocating against them seems to go against every principle of a limited government and common sense. Our government has steadily grown over the last several decades. Allowing the government to lobby for this continued growth using taxpayer resources is incredibly unwise.

This bill still allows these government entities to advocate for themselves before this Legislature. It simply ensures that the entities themselves will be directly representing their interest, instead of contract lobbyists and lobbying associations. This will bring added transparency to the system and ensures that Kansans receive a more equal playing field when they might be in opposition to a government entity.

When you consider S.B. 373, I ask that you do so favorably.

Thank you!