

BEFORE THE KANSAS SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

RE.S.B. 284

PROPONENT TESTIMONY of ROBERT TABOR, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND OF KANSAS

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and committee,

Newsline® is a subscription-based audio information service frere for those who are blind, have low vision, or who have other print-related disabilities, such as dyslexia, or who, by reason of a physical impairment, are unable to hold a newspaper or magazine, or to turn a page. Newsline can be accessed through a robust range of media platforms including telephone dialup, Windows and Apple-McIntosh computers, some internet-capable digital book readers, and personal assistance devices such as the iPhone, and iPad.

There are currently 47 states which have third party funding sources, some of which are funded through the state USF. SB 284 is quite similar to the funding and administrative mechanisms utilized by the Georgia Newsline® service.

THE NFB of Kansas urges your support of SB284 because of its high value content for many Kansans. Finally, I call your attention to the fiscal note which states thatthat all funding for NFB Newsline® will come from the Blind Information Access Fund, and will not require any outlays from SGF.

Today you will hear from several blind Kansans who utilize and deeply appreciate Newsline to access timely information most important to them. For my part, I consult with Newsline to obtain information on economic and business trends, political events, and to keep up with local news.

Thank you for considering my testimony as well as those of other proponents of SB 284.

Robert L.
Tabor, Lawrence, Douglas County, Kansas