

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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REBECCA SCHMOE
59TH DISTRICT

Written Testimony for HB 2204

House Federal and State Affairs Committee

March 12, 2025

Chairman Kessler and fellow committee members,

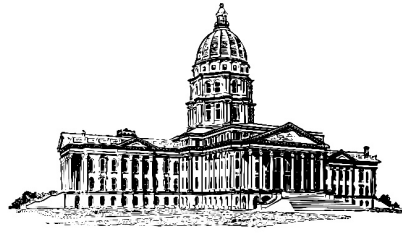
On behalf of many of my constituents, as well as constituents across Kansas who have reached out to me over several years, I am presenting testimony in support of state sovereignty for Kansas. I ask you today to join me in advocating for the importance of reaffirming the constitutional powers of our state and ensuring that Kansas retains the ability to govern itself from undue interference by global organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Kansas has a rich history of self-governance and resilience. Our state was founded on the principles of liberty and independence, values that resonate deeply with the very essence of state sovereignty. By advocating for state sovereignty, we are not calling for isolation or defiance, but rather for a renewed commitment to our rights as a state under the Constitution.

The principle of state sovereignty is firmly rooted in the U.S. Constitution. According to the Tenth Amendment, any power not explicitly granted to the federal government nor prohibited to the states is reserved for the states or the people. This clear language reinforces that Kansas, as a sovereign entity, holds authority over many matters within its borders. While international organizations such as the UN, WHO, and WEF may attempt to influence or impose global policies, Kansas must retain the authority to decide on matters that affect our state and its residents.

State sovereignty allows Kansas to prioritize the needs and values of its residents. International organizations like the UN, WHO, and WEF often promote policies or initiatives that may not reflect the unique cultural, economic, or social makeup of our state. By asserting state sovereignty, Kansas can ensure that its laws, policies, and regulations better serve the interests of its people rather than being dictated by distant, global entities.

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For instance, Kansas has unique agricultural and energy industries, and we must retain the ability to regulate these sectors in ways that are tailored to our state's specific needs. The policies promoted by international organizations often fail to account for our local industries, which can stifle economic growth and job creation.

State sovereignty enhances local accountability. Kansas' citizens elect their state legislators to represent their interests and uphold state laws. When decisions are made by state representatives who are directly accountable to Kansans, there is greater transparency, responsiveness, and local engagement. We must safeguard this critical connection between citizens and their government by ensuring that state sovereignty remains intact.

In contrast, when international organizations such as the UN, WHO, or WEF impose mandates or initiatives, citizens often feel disconnected from decision-making processes. State sovereignty ensures that decisions made on behalf of Kansans are shaped by those who understand our community's needs best, not by external bodies.

The balance of power between state and global entities is an essential pillar of the American system of governance. By affirming Kansas' state sovereignty, we protect the system of checks and balances established by our Founding Fathers. This balance ensures that no one level of government or global organization becomes too powerful or centralizes control in a way that undermines individual freedoms.

Recent instances of influence by organizations like the UN, WHO, and WEF in areas such as health policy, environmental regulations, and economic development highlight the growing tendency for external powers to infringe upon state authority. Kansas must stand firm in its commitment to self-governance and actively defend its constitutional rights to make decisions that reflect the will of its people.

Kansas has the opportunity to be a model of state sovereignty in action. By standing up for our rights and maintaining our authority to govern ourselves, we send a message to other states and to international organizations that we will not be passive recipients of global policies. Kansas can lead the way in demonstrating the importance of states as strong, independent entities within the union.

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In conclusion, the affirmation of state sovereignty is not only a constitutional right but also a moral imperative to protect the rights of Kansans and preserve the balance of power within our republic. By asserting our authority to govern ourselves, we ensure that Kansas remains a vibrant, self-determined state that serves the interests of its citizens and protects the fundamental values upon which our country was built.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I urge you to support and advance policies that will protect Kansas' sovereignty, ensuring that our state can continue to thrive, self-govern, and prosper.

In service and liberty,

Rebecca Schmoe

Kansas House of Representatives—District 59