

RE: HOUSE BILL No. 2769 By Committee on Taxation, Requested by Representative Caiharr 2-10

My name is Cheryl Yates, 4525 N 108th St, Kansas City, KS 66109. Our families have all been life-long Kansas residents. So as a concerned citizen of this state, I come to you today via this written testimony in favor of House Bill No. 2769.

It was probably in 2021 for the first time in my nearly 50 years of voting when I learned that some taxing board members make decisions for my family which affect us financially, but those taxing members would not be required to be a resident of the same said taxing area nor would they be financially impacted by their decision.

Specifically, I'm referring to the Wyandotte Library board. This board consists of 11 (eleven) members that are appointed by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County Commissioners. The Library board members are not elected, however, the County Library Board has the authority to set the County Library Tax Levy which affects five different taxing areas under the Unified Governments' umbrella with board member representation as follows:

- (2) from the City of Edwardsville
- (1) from the City of Bonner Springs
- (2) from USD 202 (Turner)
- (2) from USD 203 (Piper)
- (4) from USD 500 (Kansas City, KS)

Since not all of the 11 members reside in the area for which they are making taxing decisions, we are being taxed **without representation** and our money is not totally going to benefit our specific district(s), but also that of USD 500 (Kansas City, KS).

Please note: *"A fiduciary is a person or organization that has a legal or ethical obligation to act in the best interest of another party, often managing assets or making decisions on their behalf. This relationship is built on trust and requires the fiduciary to prioritize the other party's interests above their own."*

When I attended that Library Board meeting back in 2021 and learned how this system worked, I also observed board members who didn't seem to care or prioritize the "other party's" interests above their own. That had the responsibility of being a fiduciary, but some had already determined how they would vote regardless of testimony or concerns that were shared.

While the example I gave is just one that is cause for concern, there are probably many others in our great state. It is time for our elected officials to act in the best interest of citizens and change this egregious policy of allowing taxation without representation by passing House Bill No. 2769.