

SB177 Opponent Written Only Testimony

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to SB177. While I understand the need to adjust contribution limits over time, removing limits on contributions to party committees is a step in the wrong direction.

This change doesn't just allow more money into campaigns—it fundamentally shifts power away from voters and candidates and into the hands of political parties. By allowing unlimited contributions to party committees, we're creating a system where party leaders, not voters, have the most control over who gets financial backing. That's not a fair or transparent process—it's one that tilts the playing field toward establishment-backed candidates while leaving independent voices struggling to compete.

Not every candidate has the luxury of being in a party's good graces. Some of our most compelling candidates are the ones who challenge the status quo and fight for their communities, not for party elites. If we remove contribution limits for parties, those candidates are put at an even greater disadvantage. Instead of encouraging more competition and fresh ideas, we're making it harder for new voices to break through.

Another concern is the potential for increased influence from out-of-state donors. By removing limits on party contributions, we open the door for national organizations and wealthy donors outside of Kansas to funnel unlimited amounts of money into our elections through party committees. Kansans should be the ones deciding our elections—not outside interests with their own agendas.

I understand the argument for increasing individual contribution limits to help candidates fund their own campaigns. But there's a big difference between allowing individual supporters to invest in a candidate they believe in and giving political parties unlimited power to pick and choose who gets funding. Voters should be the ones deciding which candidates have the best ideas—not the party committees with the biggest bank accounts.

At the end of the day, this bill isn't about transparency or fairness—it's about power. It consolidates influence within political parties at the expense of voters and grassroots candidates, while also making Kansas elections more vulnerable to out-of-state money. That's why I urge the committee to reject the removal of limits on party committee contributions and preserve a fair electoral process for all Kansans.

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Sue
Vosburgh
Sedgwick County Precinct Committeewoman