

03/03/2025

SB177

Opponent

Written Only

Chairman Thompson and Members of the committee,

I am submitting my opponent testimony for SB177. If I have read this bill correctly, it sets a dangerous precedent, and I don't support it. I am not concerned with the nominal increases noted in the bill, using the Consumer Pricing Index to increase donation size or upping the contribution amount from one dollar amount to another dollar amount. Donation increases in this fashion has a clear calculation on how the increases are made and there are limits in place.

The parts of this bill that are concerning are section 3(d), lines 21-32. The elimination of lines 21-32 from section 3(d) would remove the dollar amount restriction that a person can donate to the state party (currently \$15,000), from a person to other committees (currently \$5,000), a national party to state party (currently \$25,000), a national party to any other committee (currently \$10,000), and a party to any other political committee (currently \$5000). It appears as if someone wants to open the state and local political parties fundraising to unlimited amounts from big donors. As well as allowing the national parties to use unlimited funds to help the local state parties.

This bill removes the contribution amount a party committee can give to any one candidate. All restrictions are removed with the removal of lines 2-19 on page 3. It can now be unlimited.

Lines 20-27 of page 3 removes the \$100 limit on cash donations. It can now be unlimited.

I believe this bill will allow the big money donors to be able to pick winners and losers. At least the current statute makes them go through hoops to get the money. Since I am a Republican, I will speak from that side of the aisle. Currently the Republican party does not endorse candidates in the primary races. With the opening up of this money, it would make it very easy and very enticing for the party to spend money in the primary races to get their preferred candidate to the general election. This type of unregulated spending will push out the little guy thus widening the gap between the haves and have nots. If you want the wild wild west in Kansas, this bill will allow it. I urge the committee to not support SB177.

Respectfully,

Brett Anderson
Republican Precinct Committeeman
Sedgwick County