

03/10/2025

HB2054

Opponent

Written Only

Chairman Thompson and Members of the committee,

I am submitting my opponent testimony for HB2054. 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, upping the contribution amount from one dollar amount to another dollar amount. The part that is concerning is the elimination of lines 5-16 and lines 23-38 on page 2. This 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.

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 elections, this is the way to do it. I urge the committee to not support HB2054.

Respectfully,

Brett Anderson

Republican Precinct Committeeman

Sedgwick County