

Testimony for HB 2206  
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March 12, 2025

Chairman and members of the Fed and State Committee, in my March 4<sup>th</sup> column I described the Republican State Party leadership blocking, in my opinion, Melissa Campbell's resolution from being read into the party's record, which addressed the ethics investigation of top Republicans and other organizations. This occurred in the Republican Reorganization meeting held in Goodland on March 1, 2025.

Now, I want to emphasize that alleged campaign finance shenanigans within Kansas, again, my opinion, is not limited to the Republicans. The Democrats also appear to be having a hay day circumventing the "letter of the law". Case in point: Mike Kelly, Chairman of the Johnson County Commission, formed the Amberwave PAC in February 2024. His political sidekick, Cole Robinson is also the Democrat Party Executive Director. In addition, his wife, Danielle Robinson, is the both the Chair and Treasurer of Amberwaves.

<http://ethics.ks.gov/CFAScanned/PACs/2024ElecCycle/SO/PAC039SO.pdf>

As I understand, there is a prohibition of PACs coordinating with campaigns but according to campaign finance reports Danielle Robinson was hired as a political consultant for Julie Brewer's campaign, which received contributions from Amberwave. Nothing to see here? And in addition, Amberwave PAC spent approx. \$40,000 for negative campaign mail pieces against yours truly whom Julie Brewer was running against. Did that run afoul of current campaign finance law? Democrats seem to be as adept as Republicans in campaign finance acrobatics.

The reality is the Republicans, not the Democrats are facing alleged ethics violations. It is alleged the Republicans pressured the head of the Ethics Commission, Mark Skoglund, to resign. And in addition, Republicans continue to run bills on campaign finance law which some believe will shield those who have been implicated in the ethics investigation. This does not play well with the voters in Kansas, Democrat or Republican. Trust me, I've been out talking to the folks especially in Western Kansas and they have brought the ethics issue up to me.

My advice, Republican, cool your heels, allow the investigation to go forward and after the dust settles, then reform our campaign finance laws. Until then running campaign finance bills looks and feels like a coverup.

I stand for questions.