



Chair Billinger and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to **submit proponent testimony for SB 14 - Automatic Continuing Resolutions**, which establishes a continuous budget process for Kansas, allowing existing appropriations to persist unless changed by the legislature, with provisions for temporary fund reallocations and specific limits on such reallocations. We hold the following positions on SB 14:

- 1. SB 14 supports a legislature-led budget and removes Governor Kelly’s leverage over the budgeting process**
- 2. States that have Automatic Continuing Resolutions spend fewer taxpayer dollars per capita**
- 3. SB 14 brings lasting economic change through healthier budgeting**

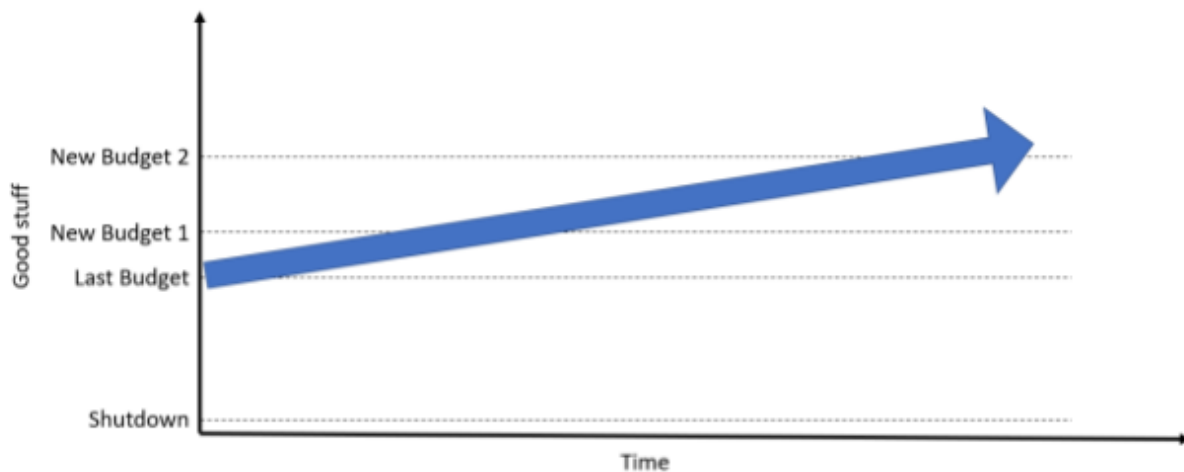
**SB 14 supports a legislature-led budget and removes Governor Kelly’s leverage over the budgeting process.**

The Kansas legislature is part-time and light on staff. That fact allows Governor Kelly to play shutdown politics: forcing the legislature to accept a bad deal or take the blame for halting government operations. It promotes wasteful government spending and leaves low-value spending untouched as time constraints encourage lawmakers to protect bloated budgets to appease interest groups.

Shutdowns give Governor Kelly the upper hand, pressuring lawmakers into approving bad deals under threat of disruption. SB 14 breaks this cycle. The bill would keep programs running without disruption, giving legislators the time and freedom to reject bloated budgets and bad deals. SB-14 is a game-changer—it empowers lawmakers to say no to inadequate budgets while ensuring that the government works for the people, not Governor Kelly.

**States that have Automatic Continuing Resolutions spend fewer taxpayer dollars per capita.**

In *Rules and Restraint: Government Spending and the Design of Institutions*, David Primo highlights research showing that states with automatic continuing resolutions spend about 2% less per capita when controlling for other factors. That savings could fund more substantial rainy day reserves, pension reforms, or meaningful tax relief.



Wisconsin and Rhode Island have relied on automatic continuing resolutions for decades, keeping spending steady until new budgets are passed.<sup>12</sup> North Carolina adopted a similar rule in 2016, which has kept political clashes between its progressive governor and Republican supermajority confined to Raleigh—not spilling over into statewide disruptions.<sup>3</sup> SB 14 saves money, ensures stability, and shields the public from budget brinkmanship.

### **SB 14 brings lasting economic change through healthier budgeting.**

For 191 years, the federal government operated with an automatic continuing resolution —until a Carter-era DOJ memo introduced shutdowns.<sup>4</sup>

Comprehensive automatic continuing resolutions in WI., R.I., and N.C., along with partial versions in 18 others, foster more deliberative legislatures, rein in governors, and promote modest spending restraint. They also consistently outpace Congress in passing budgets on time.

SB 14 enables economic progress without the chaos of shutdowns. In North Carolina, they helped block Medicaid expansion for a decade, secure pro-growth tax cuts, and achieve universal educational freedom—all while standing firm against a progressive governor.

### **We urge the committee to pass SB 14 for these reasons.**

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<sup>1</sup> Section 20.002(1), Wisconsin Statutes, <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/20/i/002/1> , accessed January 24, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Section 35-3-19, Rhode Island General Laws, <https://webserver.rilegislature.gov//Statutes/TITLE35/35-3/35-3-19.htm> , accessed January 24, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> Section 143C-5-4, North Carolina Statutes, [https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter\\_143C/GS\\_143C-5-4.pdf](https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_143C/GS_143C-5-4.pdf) , accessed January 24, 2025.

<sup>4</sup> Tom Shoop, “That Time a Government Lawyer Invented the Government Shutdown,” Government Executive, <https://www.govexec.com/management/2022/10/time-lawyer-invented-government-shutdown/378935/>, October 27, 2022.