

Approved: 5-07-08  
Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Brungardt at 10:30 a.m. on April 30, 2008 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Theresa Kiernan, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

John Carmichael

Others attending:

See attached list.

### **Chairman Brungardt opened the confirmation hearing.**

John Carmichael, Kansas Human Rights Commission

Mr. Carmichael appeared before the committee to answer questions on his appointment to the Kansas Human Rights Commission. (Attachment 1) The committee requested information from the appointment questionnaire form on the experience and affiliations page, and from letters and emails received from constituents. The committee was interested in the ideology and goals that Mr. Carmichael would bring to the commission and on certain topics of concern. Mr. Carmichael stated he did not have a private agenda against law enforcement.

The committee requested clarification on several questions on the appointment questionnaire. Mr. Carmichael was appointed to the commission in July of 2007 and started serving in August 2007. Due to the previous Chairman's unexpected resignation, Mr. Carmichael was asked by the Governor to fill that position, which is a statutorily appointed position. Mr. Carmichael's prime objective was to reduce the tremendous backlog and to review, thoroughly investigate and litigate more cases that come to the agency.

### **Chairman Brungardt closed the confirmation hearing.**

Senator Vratil moved that the committee recommend to the full Senate the confirmation of John Carmichael to the Kansas Human Rights Commission. Senator Reitz seconded the motion.

Senator Brownlee moved a substitute motion that the committee deny a recommendation for confirmation of John Carmichael to the full Senate. Senator Ostmeyer seconded the motion. The vote was 4 - 4. The motion failed.

The original motion was voted on. The vote was 4 - 4. The original motion failed. No action or recommendation was taken by the committee on the confirmation.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm. The next scheduled committee meeting is May 1, 2008.