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## House Bill 2712

### The Establishment of the Kansas Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial

Chairman Waymaster and members of the House Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for allowing my testimony for the support of House Bill 2712. It is my hope that Kansas can join with the rest of the country in celebrating our great nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the country. There will be a lot to plan in order to appropriately mark this date in 2026.

House Bill 2712 will establish the Kansas Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial. It is imperative that Kansas has an organized Committee that can work closely with the Congressionally established National Semiquincentennial Commission. While participating in National events is important, it will be the responsibility of the Kansas Commission to plan state-wide events, programs and resources for celebrations that all Kansans can benefit from and befitting of the occasion.

I was raised to love my country and to support the freedoms that we all enjoy by a father who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The fact that I am even able to speak up about House Bill 2712 is testament of the Democracy that was hard won by our ancestors. Richard Wells (Indian Spy in Georgia and Virginia), Hugh Patrick (Virginia Militia), and James McGuire (died at the Battle of Blue Licks, KY) are just three of my many 5<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfathers that fought in the American Revolution. As I research the men and women that have direct blood lines to me, I am energized to ensure that their sacrifices are recognized and celebrated. Though none of us will ever fully understand the effort it took to claim Independence for our nation, it is all of our responsibility to not only celebrate this milestone but ensure that we educate others about this country's history. If you don't know where you have been, you can't move forward with the knowledge that you are working towards the greater good of the state and nation.

The Kansas Semiquincentennial Commission as established in HB2712 will include people with differing viewpoints, backgrounds and interests which will ensure that all Kansans will benefit from the wisdom brought to the table by this diverse group. My passion for Kansas and the United States has led me to be an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) where I am a state officer and national vice chair of communications. I do not represent the DAR in this letter of testimony; however, I am positive that the Kansas DAR members support this legislation and will be on the front lines helping to make this celebration one that everyone of us will appreciate and enjoy.

Thank you for allowing me to share my passion and love of this great country by showing support of HB2712. And thank you for stepping forward and serving Kansas – Ad Astra Per Aspera.