

Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee
Kansas Senate
Room 142 - S
Topeka, KS 66606

February 5, 2019

Honorable Senators:

I write to the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee on behalf of the community of Eudora Kansas and Senate Bill 59. Your committee voting favorably to move SB 59 forward to the full Senate would be greatly appreciated.

As a seventh generation member of the community of Eudora, a public library has been an asset for the town. Early library history shows that a library was staffed as early as the 1920s for book borrowing and exchanges. Since that time, the library mission has grown and expanded to reflect the changing times and needs of patrons. The current library building was constructed after a vote was held and was dedicated in 1968. The current library strives to offer programming needed for 21st Century and includes the always favorite children's story time and programming to Internet access and availability, which is critical in an area that has limited options for reliable, fast internet connectivity. The current age of the existing structure, along with lack of space hinders the delivery of 21st century programming the library staff would be in favor of providing.

Further, as a social studies educator, libraries are a great example of democracy in action - all people are welcome to enjoy the services provided. No other company that I am aware provides services for communities that a library does. Fitzgibbon (2000) noted that community libraries provide so much more - from access to materials for home schooled students, serve as an educational support center just to name a few. Libraries are gateways for students to establish and nurture life long learning.

The changes proposed by SB 59 would allow the library to move forward into the 21st century to serve the City of Eudora and Eudora Township communities with the needs their demographics demand, including expanding programming for children and adding in classes for senior citizens.

I encourage your favorable vote on Senate Bill 59 and would be happy to provide any follow up or additional information.

Sincerely -



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