

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 February 8, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Carrie Nassif, Kansas Equality Coalition
Stephanie Mott, Kansas Equality Coalition
Pedro Irigonegarary, Kansas Equality Coalition
Thomas Witt, Kansas Equality Coalition
Donna Lippoldt, Kansas Family Policy Council
Brent Pinkall, Awaken Manhattan

Others attending:

See attached list.

Introduction of Bills

Senator Owens requested a bill introduction. The bill is in regard to 79-3233(b) tax abatement records and confidentiality.

Senator Owens moved that this request should be introduced as a committee bill. Senator Reitz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Abrams requested three conceptual bill introductions regarding:

- curriculum and funding of education

Senator Abrams moved that this request should be introduced as a committee bill. Senator Ostmeyer seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- Suitable of education

Senator Abrams moved that this request should be introduced as a committee bill. Senator Owens seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- A bill regarding e-verify

Senator Abrams moved that this request should be introduced as a committee bill. Senator Ostmeyer seconded the motion. The motion carried

Senator Reitz requested a bill introduction. The bill draft 11RS0329 and is in regards to increasing tax on tobacco products.

Senator Reitz moved that this request should be introduced as a committee bill. Senator Owens seconded the motion. The motion carried

SB 53-Inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in Kansas act against discrimination

Chairman Brungardt opened the hearing on **SB 53**.

Staff provided an overview of the bill; and stated there was a strike through error in the bill on the first page. The bill is being reprinted.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Federal and State Committee at 10:30 a.m. on February 8, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Carrie Nassif, Northwest Chapter of Kansas Equality Coalition, testified in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 1](#)) Ms. Nassif stated adding sexual orientation as a protected class for all Kansans is so important. Voting on this legislation will protect her rights, not special rights just asking for what is decent.

Stephanie Mott, Board Member, Kansas Equality Coalition, appeared in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 2](#)) Ms. Mott talked about the life-draining discrimination that is prevalent throughout Kansas against transgender people, and the horrifying effects it has, not just on transgender people, but also on families and communities. Discrimination affects communities because it constructs barriers for transgender people to be productive members of society.

Pedro L. Irigonegaray, Counsel, Kansas Equality Coalition, spoke in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 3](#)) Mr. Irigonegaray stated it is time that Kansas is recognized once again as a state that supports justice and equality for all; the right to our religious and moral views, however, as a government, and are not bound by any faith or church. Please vote to amend our laws and provide equal protection to gay, lesbian and transgender families, friends and neighbors. Equality denied to some, denies equality to all. Also provided the court cases of Jantz vs Muci.

Thomas Witt, Chair, Kansas Equality Coalition, testified in favor of the bill. ([Attachment 4](#)) The bill would amend the Kansas Acts Against Discrimination to add protection for sexual orientation and gender identity, whether actual or perceived. There are currently 26 states, plus Washington DC, that have some level of protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation; there are 200 towns, cities and counties that ban sexual orientation discrimination, and a Presidential Executive Order banning discrimination in Federal employment. Mr. Witt also provided information on Statewide Employment Laws and Policies; a policy brief, "The Extent of Sexual Orientation Discrimination in Topeka, KS" by Roddrick Colvin; and a General Accounting Office report GAO/OGC-98-7R, Oct. 23, 1997.

Donna Lippoldt, Director, Kansas Family Policy Council, (KFPC) testified in opposition to the bill. ([Attachment 5](#)) Kansas Family Policy Council cannot stand by and see an immoral lifestyle that leads to harm for children be presented as law in our state, and KFPC stands for the protection of families and against the bill.

Brent Pinkall, Awaken Manhattan, spoke against the bill. ([Attachment 6](#)) Mr. Pinkall stated this issue does not require governmental intervention but is one that requires people to work together to promote and protect the value and dignity of every human being; to better understand the many beliefs and values that we each hold; and to better learn how to allow for such diversity while loving our neighbors as ourselves. Attached to the testimony was a letter, signed by 27 pastors, that was written to the Manhattan City Commission expressing why they as pastors are very concerned about such legislation.

Written testimony in opposition to the bill was received from Michael Schuttloffel, Executive Director, Kansas Catholic Conference ([Attachment 7](#)), Judy Smith, Concerned Women for America of Kansas ([Attachment 8](#)), and Representative Jan Pauls ([Attachment 9](#)).

Kansas Human Rights Commission provided written testimony as neutral on the bill. ([Attachment 10](#))

Chairman Brungardt closed the hearing on **SB 53**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.