

February 15, 2012

House Government Efficiency Committee

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2725

Presented by Richard Cram

Chairman Burgess and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 2725 would repeal the statutes creating the Kansas Advisory Council for Intergovernmental Relations (K.A.C.I.R.), K.S.A. 12-4001 through 12-4008, first enacted in 2002. Since its inception, the legislature has never appropriated any funding for the K.A.C.I.R.

The Department has been providing staff support and has covered the operating expenses of the K.A.C.I.R. since 2006. This has involved notifying members of meetings, arranging for meeting locations, hosting the meetings in Topeka, covering travel expenses of members to meetings, providing lunches for members at meetings, covering travel expenses of Department staff to K.A.C.I.R. meetings held outside of Topeka, preparing and distributing meeting agendas and materials, preparing and distributing for approval meeting minutes, preparing and publishing the K.A.C.I.R. annual report, contracting for any special research projects, developing any legislative proposals to be requested by the K.A.C.I.R., arranging with legislative committees for hearings on K.A.C.I.R. legislative proposals, contacting conferees for such hearings, and monitoring the progress of those proposals. K.S.A. 12-4004 provides that the K.A.C.I.R. shall convene at least once every 2 years in each congressional district, meaning a minimum of 2 meetings per year, each in a different district. Lynn Robinson, the Department employee providing primary staff support to the K.A.C.I.R., averaged spending about 25% of her time on those support activities.

Due to recent budget constraints, the Department is unable to continue providing the funding and staff support for the K.A.C.I.R. Secretary Jordan has communicated with the Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas Municipalities to ask if either of those organizations would be willing to assume the staffing duties and funding for the K.A.C.I.R. Neither organization indicated an interest in doing so. For that reason, the Department is recommending passage of House Bill 2725 for repeal of K.S.A. 12-4001 through 12-4008. The Department would welcome the continued input and counsel on an informal basis of the organizations and individuals who have been participants in the K.A.C.I.R.