

# KANSAS ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Testimony on House Bill 2725  
House Committee on Government Efficiency  
February 15, 2012

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I'm Willis Heck, Chair of the **Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR)**. Thank you for the opportunity to testify **against House Bill 2725** on this important topic.

The 2002 Kansas Legislature created the 15-member **Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (KACIR)**. In short **KACIR** was asked to study the services provided by the various levels of local government within the state. A target was to look for possibilities of improving the organizational structure and operational efficiency of the various governmental units serving the citizens of the state. Another target was to review the state and local tax structures, the revenue requirements, and fiscal policies of the state and its local units of government.

As a result, **KACIR** engages in a continuous study of the services provided by the various levels of government within the state. By monitoring a wide range of governmental relations, **KACIR** helps to promote cooperation and efficiency within government; thereby helping the leaders in Kansas work together more effectively.

The Department of Revenue provided staff support for KACIR and supported some studies. The League of Kansas Municipalities, the Kansas Association of Counties, the Kansas Association of School Boards and Kansas Citizens are represented as a part of **KACIR**. Four legislators, two from each house, are also members. We usually meet about four times a year.

Some of the issues addressed by KACIR includes: (Data found in the 2010 report)

- \*Erosion of the Property Tax Base in Kansas
- \*Erosion of the Kansas Sales Tax Base
- \*Local Debt Affordability in Kansas
- \*Sales tax exemptions
- \*County Consolidation (Data found in the 2009 report)

It is my opinion that KACIR provides an important and necessary process for townships, cities, counties and school boards to meet and discuss ways that government in Kansas can be more effective and efficient. If KACIR ceases to exist, I do not see a way for these discussions to occur. **Therefore, I respectfully ask the committee to vote against HB 2725.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information to you.

Willis Heck, Chair  
Kansas Advisory Council  
Intergovernmental Relations, (KACIR)

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