



220 E. 6th Street  
Room 500  
Topeka, Kansas 66603

**Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee -**

**My name is Jim Gartner and I am a contract lobbyist for AT&T Kansas. I am here today to testify as neutral to SB 398.**

**I retired from AT&T with almost 30 years service in 2001 and then went to work immediately for the company as a contract lobbyist which I've been doing ever since.**

**I was with the company when the original Kan-ed bill was passed so I feel extremely qualified to discuss this current bill with you today.**

**Today Kan-ed stands at a crossroads and is hopefully poised to continue in the future although I'm sure with a different kind of look. And this committee can play a big part in this revamped Kan-ed. You have an opportunity to initiate a framework for a bill that will provide a future Kan-ed model for other states to copy when providing internet access, distance learning, tele-medicine and video conferencing to schools, hospitals and libraries throughout the state.**

**As the state's largest telecommunications provider, AT&T has played a major role in the development of Kan-ed to date and we stand ready to work with all interested parties in order to create the model for the future.**

**In that vein, we have developed a list of recommendations for the future Kan-ed that I've attached to this testimony. It's not a complete list by any means but it is our attempt to begin working on a successful transition to the next generation of Kan-ed.**

**Let me briefly discuss these ideas with you now. Please see the attached page:**

**Thank you for this opportunity to express our views on the future of Kan-ed. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.**



## **Independent Expert Consultant Better Able to Assess Technology Needs of Schools, Hospitals and Libraries in Kansas**

**The Kansas Legislature would be better served by directing the Board of Regents to issue an RFP to an independent third party consultant to do the following:**

- 1. Conduct an assessment of all schools, hospitals and libraries to determine the needs for internet access, including upload and download speeds required, full motion video, and distance learning.**
- 2. Assess these entities ability and willingness to pay for these services.**
- 3. Develop and propose a network, provided by private telecommunications companies, to provide these services and the annual cost of such a network.**
- 4. Develop and present a five year projection of the network based upon these needs, taking into account the next generation of telecommunications infrastructure.**
- 5. Propose the appropriate entity to manage and oversee the network operations.**
- 6. Provide a recommendation for how to best administer the Federal Government's e-Rate subsidy program for the participants.**
- 7. Make a recommendation concerning the responsibilities and membership of the Kan-Ed advisory committee.**
- 8. The consultant's final report shall be presented to the Senate Utilities Committee no later than January 20, 2013.**