

Date: March 5, 2018

To: Representative Jim Kelly, Chairman
House Financial Institutions & Pensions Committee

From: Stephanie Mullholland, Director of Legislative & Political Affairs
Heartland Credit Union Association

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 275. Heartland Credit Union Association represents Kansas credit unions across the state, 65 of which are state-chartered and therefore regulated by the Kansas Department of Credit Unions (KDCU). Credit unions serve more than 674,000 Kansans by providing them with a not-for-profit alternative in the financial services market.

SB 275 seeks to improve the appointment process by clarifying term limits to the Kansas Credit Union Council, which serves as an advisory board to the administrator of the KDCU. Under state statute, members of the Council are appointed by the Governor and may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. This bill would address the calculation of term limits in situations where a member is appointed to fulfill the remainder of a mid-term vacancy by specifying that an appointee may still serve two full terms following a mid-term appointment.

The clarification comes in response to a recent Attorney General's opinion, which indicates that mid-term appointments to a state board or commission would count as a full term, preventing an appointee from serving two full terms unless otherwise addressed in the law.

HCUA supports passage of SB 275 so that Kansans volunteering to serve on the Council are not penalized for stepping up to fulfill a mid-term vacancy. With passage of this clarification, appointees would retain their ability to serve two full terms at the Governor's discretion.

We appreciate your consideration of SB 275.