

**Written Testimony before the Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee
Senate Bill 132 – Concerning Regional Systems of Cooperating Libraries – In Favor
Submitted by Steve Read, Chair of the South Central Kansas Library System Board and
Executive Committee**

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

I am Steve Read and have been a citizen of McPherson, Kansas for the past 25 years. In my volunteer role as the elected Chair of the South Central Kansas Library System Board and Executive Committee, I offer the following written testimony regarding Senate Bill 132.

The South Central Kansas Library System provides grants, consulting, continuing education and cost-effective support services to 144 member public, academic, school district and special libraries in Barber, Butler, Cowley, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, McPherson, Reno, Rice, Sedgwick, Stafford and Sumner counties. SCKLS currently has service contracts with 71 cooperating public and academic libraries that provide access for nearly 100,000 citizens and students in our region who are registered users of these 71 libraries and who would not otherwise have access to a local public or academic library.

Currently and in accordance with (K.S.A) 75-2550, the Governor appoints one representative from each of the 12 counties in the South Central Kansas Library System service area. We believe a revised state level process with appointment authority by the State Librarian of Kansas will be an efficient technical revision of the existing statute. With the potential of 105 statewide regional library system board appointments every four years, appointment at the State Library of Kansas level will streamline the appointment process and eliminate the likelihood for new and potentially unwieldy processes at each county level.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in favor of SB 132 to provide appointment authority to the State Librarian of Kansas.