

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



CAROLYN MCGINN
STATE SENATOR, 31ST DISTRICT
HARVEY AND NORTH SEDGWICK COUNTIES

HOME ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX A
SEDGWICK, KANSAS 67135
(316) 772-0147

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIRMAN
WAYS AND MEANS

MEMBER
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

JOINT COMMITTEES
RULES AND REGULATIONS
BUILDING COMMITTEE

ROOM 545-S, STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7377
carolyn.mcinn@senate.ks.gov

Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

Testimony on HB 2278

Senator Carolyn McGinn
March 13, 2017

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am here to present neutral testimony to HB 2278. HB 2278 would provide for the de-annexation of Hillside Cemetery District territory located within the city limits of Valley Center. Hillside Cemetery has served residents of the cities of Sedgwick and Valley Center and the surrounding rural areas since 1948.

When I became aware that HB 2278 would be heard in committee this past Friday, I called the City of Sedgwick to find out if they were aware of the hearing. They were not and they provided me the information for the Hillside Cemetery District Governing Board. I called the governing board for the cemetery district and discovered that 3 of the 4 who serve on the board knew nothing about this legislation. The fourth member had heard something in passing a few months ago.

Generally, rural cemetery districts provide two separate rates. Those who live in the district receive a lower plot rate than if you are outside of the district. If you live outside of the district, you pay more upfront for maintenance of the cemetery over time. By de-annexing part of the city of Valley Center from the Hillside Cemetery District, the remaining taxpayers in the district will be paying for the cost of maintaining a cemetery that has offered lower rates to families from both Sedgwick and Valley Center since 1948.

In the last 10 years, Valley Center has developed a cemetery in the north part of the city on 15 acres. While I believe that Valley Center should be able to transition out of the Hillside cemetery district, notification should be provided to the other city and cemetery district impacted and an inter-local agreement reached that provides for a stable transition that is equitable to the remaining taxpayers in the district.

Thank you for your allowing me to testify on HB 2278.