

February 5, 2019

To: Kansas Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

Re: Support for SB 59

Members of the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee:

Please accept this statement of support for the passage of SB 49, the Eudora community library act.

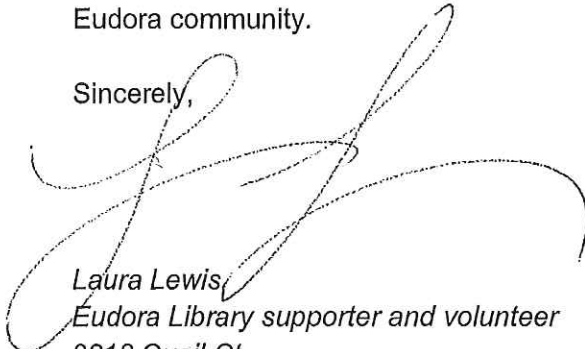
An average of 150 people check out books from the Eudora Library every day. Patrons are checking out more than 44,000 items annually, more than doubling the library's circulation in the last decade. The library's children and teen programming serves more than 450 youth annually with special events, story time and literacy programming.

The library is also much more than a brick-and-mortar library. It administers a free food program, Feeding Eudora, during the summer months for the entire community, reaching all marginalized children and residents. In the summer of 2018, Feeding Eudora served 4,331 free lunches. The library also just launched a book delivery service for Eudora area seniors who are not able to get out to visit the library. As a library supporter, I am proud of the great impact our library has on the community.

Our library has existed since being approved by a vote of the people in 1968. SB 59 would keep our tradition of great library service for 50 years going. The establishment of an autonomous district by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board will bring together a greater representation of our community and increase access to vital resources and partnerships in order to expand our library and programs in the future.

Thank you for considering this bill and how the outcome will improve the quality of life for the Eudora community.

Sincerely,



Laura Lewis
Eudora Library supporter and volunteer
2218 Quail Ct.
Eudora, KS 66025
785-865-6084