

BEFORE THE KANSAS HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, LABOR, and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

TESTIMONY by ROBERT L TABOR, NATIONAL FEDERATION of the BLIND of KANSAS

RE. SENATE BILL 333, Written PROPONENT TESTIMONY ONLY

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and honorable committee members,

My name is Rob Tabor. I am the first vice president of the above listed organization. Among the various hats I wear, I have been privileged to represent my organization on the state Use Law Committee for a little over 3 years. I can tell you from direct personal experience that the committee has evolved into a robustly proactive body which, among other things, provides a platform for the interested stakeholders to dialogue on a continuous basis in the commonly shared effort to maintain and expand employment opportunities for Kansans who are blind, visually impaired, and have other disabilities.

Rising increase in proactive leadership is why we support SB 333. We did so in the form of a resolution passed by our state convention in Wichita last November. At that time we advocated for the outright elimination of the 5 year sunset clause, which was provided for in the original bill draft as introduced by the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee. As you have no doubt been briefed, the bill was amended in the Senate Commerce committee who restored the 5 year sunset clause.

Considering the ongoing nature of the committee's statutory charge, as well as the cited lack of fiscal impact, we contend that a sunset provision is no longer needed. That said, we wholeheartedly support SB 333 in any form which enables the use law committee to continue its work that is so vitally important to many blind and disabled workers in Kansas.

Thank you for this opportunity to address this committee and for your serious consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted

Rob Tabor, Lawrence, Douglas County Kansas