

February 6, 2019

To: Kansas Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

Re: Support for SB 59

Members of the Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee:

We submit this letter to request your support for the passage of SB 59, the Eudora community library act.

Our family has lived in Eudora since we finished college and began our careers and family in Eudora. As a teacher in the Eudora school district and nurse in the Eudora area, we have experienced many different programming options and service opportunities that the Eudora Community Library makes available, from children's story time to the Feeding Eudora food program during the summer months to utilizing inter-library loan options so that we can access materials not available at our own library at that time. Our three daughters have grown up with access to reading materials and activities that the library has made available for each of them, as well as staffing the library with people who recognize their interests and maintain a running list of items that they might enjoy.

The sense of community and personal relationships that our library presents are important to all members of our family. Beyond just the two of us and our three daughters, our family members have chosen to not only make Eudora their home, but also take advantage of all the services our community library has available, for my parents who recently retired from careers in education as well as my wife's brother and his family with his wife and two young daughters.

This goes to show that our community library is indeed utilized by the community—young, old, new Eudora residents, and lifelong Eudora residents. Our library has existed since being approved by a vote of the people in 1968. Since that time, our community has offered support to our school district by building new elementary, middle, high school, and technical education campuses as well as a new public safety building and recreation and aquatic center.

As provided by SB 59, 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.

We have both been on the steering committee to help rally financial support for construction of this new community library, but now need your help in taking the next steps to making this new, modern community space into a reality. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of supporting SB 49, the Eudora community library act.

Sincerely,

Scott and Jody Keltner
Eudora Library supporters and steering committee members
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