

RE: **HB2528**

Dear House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

My name is Cecil Dale, and I am a member of the CrossPoint Church in Great Bend, which is part of the Central Baptist Association. I am also the Director of Mission for the Central Baptist Association.

I became aware of the changes the State of Kansas made to the Kansas Amusement Ride Act (KSA 44-1601) in the Fall of 2021. Our Association of Southern Baptist Churches located throughout Central Kansas owns four inflatable bounce houses. When one of the member churches of our Association was asked by a local municipality to provide these inflatables for a community school kickoff event in September, we were thrilled to be able to give back to the community. However, shortly after agreeing to provide the inflatables, the Association was informed of the changes made to the Kansas Amusement Ride Act. After reading the Act we quickly determined that we could not be in compliance with the Act in time for this event. We ended up having to make other arrangements to assist our community so that we would not be guilty of a Class B Misdemeanor.

The changes to the Kansas Amusement Ride Act requires non-profit organizations, such as churches, to register with the Department of Labor and get permits for each inflatable which the Act defines as an Amusement Park Ride. Each ride must be inspected by a state approved inspector annually. Each entity must be available for Random Audits. All operators of the rides must be trained, display the proper paperwork on or near the ride during operations, and keep records of all of this to provide for Random Audits if/when asked. Records to be kept and maintained include records of all repairs and maintenance, safety training records, and ride operator training activities. Such records must be made available to the Department of Labor at reasonable times, including at the request of the Department during inspections. Further, the Act requires the records be available at the location where the ride or device is operated and be maintained for at least three years.

Last October our Association held its annual meeting. We decided that the new Act is too burdensome on the Association, and the danger of unintentionally falling out of compliance and thus be guilty of a Class B Misdemeanor were too great. We voted to remove our inflatables for our churches to use.

I ask that you remove inflatables from this Act. To the best of my knowledge, there has never been a fatality in the state of Kansas caused by inflatables like the Bounce Houses our Association owned. They are literally bags of air, and we place air bags in cars to save lives. They are not giant water slides, nor do they have moving parts. They are not Amusement Park Rides, and should never have been made part of this Act. The electric horse in front of the grocery store, which does not come under this act, is far more dangerous than an inflatable. Placing inflatables in this Act is a solution for a problem that does not exist. I urge you to introduce and support legislation to change this Act so that non-profit charitable organizations can once again use inflatables without the burdens imposed by the current law.

Should you desire to reach out to me on this issue, I am at your service, and my contact information is below.

Sincerely,

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