

HB 2719
Talking Points

The major purpose of this bill is to remove taxing authority from library boards and regional systems. While this in itself is disturbing, the bill would also require a multi-county public vote on a yearly basis to decide whether or not to fund the 7 regional library systems. This would most likely mean the end of the regional library systems and the loss of statewide resource sharing.

Please use the following talking points when addressing this issue with legislators:

- All library material across the state can currently be shared efficiently and effectively through existing programs facilitated by the regional library systems. Loss of regional library system services due to this legislation would eliminate these programs and deny residents access to reliable, accurate information. Sharing keeps everyone's mill levy lower.
- 32.4 percent of libraries in Kansas have budgets less than \$20,000. These libraries cannot survive without grants and professional services from the regional library systems. 48 communities lose their libraries; 58 more would be at risk.
- Regional library systems publish their budgets and conduct annual public budget hearings. There is oversight at multiple levels. The statutory processes provided for budget oversight for regional library systems have worked well for 50 years. Regional library systems have proven to be prudent and fiscally responsible.