



March 24, 2016

Historically, major national amateur and professional sporting events that come from outside the State to Kansas City annually represents:

- **\$51.1M economic impact** to Kansas City
- Average of **8 Championships** ...Big 12 Men’s Basketball Championship, the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, NCAA Division I Women’s Volleyball, NCAA Division I Men’s and Women’s Basketball Regionals and numerous soccer championships.
- **\$3.15M of state tax revenue**

Senate Joint Resolution 39 would have severe negative ramifications for the entire state of Missouri, not to mention the additional negative impact from a loss of conventions, other events, and leisure travel that would cause irrevocable economic harm. These events do not have to come to Missouri; most of the fans that spend their money in our State at these events come from outside Missouri; and once they are lost they are not likely to come back. **Over a 5-year period, the lost economic impact to the State just from loss of these events in Kansas City could exceed \$250,000,000 and over \$15,000,000 of state income tax revenue!**

*Making a better Kansas City through sports* is our vision at the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation. Senate Joint Resolution 39 has the potential of obstructing our vision and damaging our reputation for years to come. The proposed constitutional amendment will have a detrimental effect on our ability to attract future sports business to Missouri and terminate the millions of dollars of visitor spending our sports industry generates on a yearly basis.

Throughout each year, we work closely with event partners such as the NCAA, Big 12 Conference, and numerous U.S. Olympic National Governing Bodies (NGB’s). These event partners are closely monitoring the developments related to the resolution and have publicly voiced concerns regarding the proposed amendment to Missouri’s Constitution, which would put the future of these events in Missouri at significant risk. This discriminatory legislation does not portray our city or our state as a positive, welcoming, diverse destination and is in conflict with those partners’ own policies that include non-discrimination based on sexual orientation.

As sports commissions representing cities across the country currently are entering in a bid process for future NCAA Championships, even Missouri’s consideration of such a Constitutional amendment will put Kansas City (and all cities in the state) at a severe disadvantage to compete for those lucrative events. All sports, across all divisions, both men’s and women’s, through the year 2022 are currently up for bid. In 2013, the NCAA awarded Kansas City 16 championships through the year 2018, more than any other city in the country. This resolution could negatively impact our chances of retaining existing events and being awarded any future championships not only with the NCAA, but with select conferences and NGB’s. The NCAA, the Southeastern Conference, the Big 12 Conference, and others have made public statements in the past week expressing their serious concern about this proposed Constitutional Amendment.

Our State has figured out how to be competitive in the bidding of major sporting events with the passing of the amateur sports tax credit bill. This legislation has provided us an advantage in attracting must-attend and must-see sporting events from other states. We join with the St. Louis Sports Commission in urging lawmakers to understand that the constitutional amendment as proposed, based on recent precedent in Indiana, would cripple an industry that the General Assembly has worked hard to promote.

For 50 years, the Kansas City Sports Commission has worked to promote our city and state through sports. We are committed to equality, inclusiveness and anti-discrimination. We stand with those who fight SJR39 and call upon the Missouri House of Representatives to stop this bad legislation from proceeding to the ballot.

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