



TO: Chair Humphries and the House Committee on Judiciary
FROM: Paul Kramer, City Manager
DATE: February 3, 2025
SUBJECT: Opposition Testimony for HB 2134

Chair Humphries and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of HB 2134 on behalf of the City of Shawnee.

The City of Shawnee fully supports the transparency and accessibility that the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) creates. However, the proposed HB 2134 creates an unnecessary limit on local decision making. It imposes an unfunded mandate through an artificial limitation on the ability for cities to recover their costs associated with fulfilling KORA requests.

Section (c)(5)(B) states, "No such fee shall be charged for electronic copies" in relation to the furnishing of electronic copies of records. The furnishing of such copies includes city staff time to review and redact records. Therefore, section (c)(5)(B) would require local taxpayers to pay the cost of reviewing and redacting such records, rather than the requestor. Local governments are required to redact certain information - e.g. social security numbers, names of sex crime victims, etc.

The law that is currently in place limits cost collections to only the actual cost of furnishing the records requested under KORA. In the proposed bill, cities will be unable to recoup these actual costs, shifting much of the burden away from the requester and back to the city and the taxpayer by extension.

Based on this testimony, the City of Shawnee respectfully requests that the Committee not advance HB 2134 to the full House.

I thank you for your consideration on this matter. Sincerely,

Paul Kramer
City Manager | City of Shawnee