



## **Kansas Press Association, Inc.**

*Dedicated to serving and advancing the interests of Kansas newspapers*

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Feb. 12, 2013

To: Rep. Lance Kinzer, chairman, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Doug Anstaett, executive director, Kansas Press Association

Re: House Bill 2188

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I am Doug Anstaett, executive director of the Kansas Press Association.

The Kansas Press Association comes today in support of House Bill 2188. This amends a statute that was approved by the Kansas Legislature in the 2005 session, the same year the KPA pushed hard for other improvements in the Kansas Open Records and Kansas Open Meetings acts.

At that time, although an annual report of the publicly derived revenues and expenditures became law, those reports only become public knowledge today if someone goes to a non-profit entity and asks for them in person.

Under that original legislation, any non-profit that existed in 2005 and received \$350 or more in taxpayer support was mandated to report the revenues and expenditures annually.

This bill will increase significantly the public's access to such information, and thus provide greater transparency about how much money is going where and how it is being spent.

Now, I realize that lined up behind me is a phalanx of representatives of non-profit jobs development corporations, health care providers, hospital corporations, adult care homes and others who will soon tell you how telling the public more of the details of what they do will be bad for business.

They'll paint a gloomy scenario where their competitive edge will be stripped away as others steal their facts and figures and use those numbers against them. They'll agree that while transparency is good for you and other public agencies, secrecy works much better for them.

Here is our question: Why should millions of our tax dollars flow to organizations that believe they have no obligation to reveal to the actual source of their funding — the taxpayers of Kansas — how they spent the money?

Taxpayers have a right to know where all their tax dollars go, not just those spent by the public agencies in our state. It's really very little to ask from those who apparently could not do what they do without those public funds.

KPA supports HB 2188. It opens up the shades and lets the sun shine in. Thank you.