

KANSAS  
ASSOCIATION



OF  
SCHOOL  
BOARDS

1420 Arrowhead Road | Topeka, Kansas | 66604-4024  
785-273-3600 | 800-432-2471 | 785-273-7580 FAX  
www.kasb.org

Testimony before the  
**House Committee on Judiciary**  
on  
**HB 2188 – Open Records**

by

**Mark Tallman, Associate Executive Director, Kansas Association of School Boards**  
**February 12, 2013**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on **HB 2188** on behalf of the Kansas Association of School Boards. KASB is a non-profit organization that provides a number of services to local school boards, as well as community college, technical colleges and school district cooperatives and service centers. Our membership is made up of these entities, which elect our Board of Directors and set out policy positions. In addition to governmental relations services, KASB also provides legal, labor relations, research, insurance, energy, professional development, training and strategy planning, executive search and communications services.

KASB does not have a specific position on this bill, so we appear as neutral. We would offer the following concerns.

First, our association has always been willing to support transparency in government, but we believe the same rules should apply to everyone. If additional reporting requirements are imposed on school districts funds paid to non-profit organizations like KASB, we believe the same requirements should be imposed on for-profit organizations. This bill would apparently apply to a number of non-profit organizations that provide membership or services to school districts. We would note that the decision to make payments to entities covered by this bill is made by locally elected officials who are accountable to local voters, and who can set whatever standards they believe are necessary for assuring the proper use of public funds.

Second, any additional reporting requirements that impose new cost to either the non-profit organizations or school districts will detract time and resources from providing services in the most cost-effective manner.

Third, we have a number of questions about the meaning of this bill. These include 1) whether the documentation to be published on a non-profit's website must contain the exact same details as what would be on the USD's website as there is only one statement of necessary documentation, and it is not specific to either the entity or the public entity; 2) whether the non-profit would have to track public fund receipts from each individual district and then track and report the expenditures on a per district basis; and 3) whether the district could publish just monthly expenditures on their website or if it would have to be specific to the non-profit's expenditures of the individual districts' dues or fees. Much more clarification is needed to see how burdensome this bill would actually be on our members and us.

We urge the committee to be very cautious about imposing additional requirements.

Thank you for your consideration.