



Shawnee County
Register of Deeds

200 East 7th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3932
COURTHOUSE ROOM 108 785-233-8200 Ext. 4020
MARILYN L. NICHOLS
REGISTER

March 13, 2013

Senate Committee for Federal and State Affairs

Mr. Chairman,

Re: SB 10 revising the open records/open meetings statute

This testimony is in opposition to SB 10. I understand the intent of this bill, in part, is to set a uniform fee for open records, addressing the charges for staff time as well as for the copies provided. I understand the need for uniformity and to stop the outrageous costs for these kinds of reports and documents as being charged at various entities. However, I do not support the revision as written for the reason of sounding and acting like an unfunded mandate coming from the state down to the local layers of government.

Realistically if we have to charge 10 cents a copy and our staff time free of charge, it will literally have a negative impact on my budget and of those other open records offices as well. A real snowball effect can happen in increasing budgets, translating to higher taxes to fund the personnel and equipment needed to fulfill all the requests we get on a regular basis.

Please reconsider the costs to local government and oppose the passage of SB 10 as proposed.

I appreciate your attention and service to the public.

Marilyn L. Nichols,
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