



**KANSAS ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL BOARDS**

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Testimony before the
House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

on
HB 2325 – Enacting the public employee bargaining transparency act

by
Tom Krebs, Governmental Relations Specialist

February 2, 2016

Chair Hutton, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB 2325. We offer neutral testimony.

This is based on our belief the bill does not change significantly any practice or protocol currently being used by our members during negotiations with the designated bargaining unit, which to my knowledge, is KNEA almost without exception.

One of our experienced attorneys noted in discussing the bill KASB has “No problem with the sessions being open....we have always said the bargaining sessions are open and this is already in the law.”

We believe there needs to be the right to caucus in private, and in our training and our advice, we always suggest they keep it to no more than three board members on the team so the team can caucus in private.

We are also comfortable with anything that is presented at a bargaining session becomes an open record once it is presented at the table. (The only exception is during mediation, which is provided for in current law.)

KASB has no problem with posting negotiated agreements on the district Web site, and many are already doing this as it is certainly an open record.

Thank you for this opportunity for input.