



**Testimony on SB 206
House Judiciary Committee
March 16, 2015**

WRITTEN ONLY

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I'm Kent Cornish, President of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, a trade association representing the nearly 275 radio and television stations in Kansas.

We have been part of the annual KOMA and KORA training that is put on each summer around the state by the Attorney General's office, and believe for the most part, that governmental agencies and those charged with keeping records and running meetings try to comply with KOMA and KORA. These laws have been put in place to create transparency in government and to provide easier access for citizens to review what happens in their community and state agencies.

The KAB has been on record for years in supporting policies and laws that open up government so that citizens can scrutinize the deliberations and decisions made by tax paid governmental entities. We fully support the Attorney General's efforts in this bill to strengthen the powers of his office in investigating and prosecuting violators of KOMA and KORA.

Armed with staff and stronger penalties, it will be even clearer that KOMA and KORA is taken seriously and those individuals found in violation will be penalized through fines, and just as importantly, required training. KOMA and KORA are not that complicated, but based on questions I hear at the training sessions each year, its obvious more people need reviews and Senate Bill 206 will provide the Attorney General's office the opportunity to reach more governmental employees and elected officials.

Thank you for your time and I'd be pleased to answer questions at the appropriate time.

Kent Cornish
KAB
kent@kab.net
785-235-1307