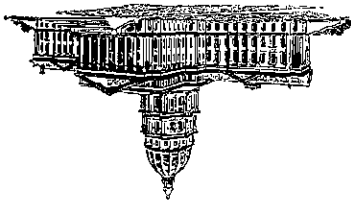


State of Kansas
Senate



Kay Wolf
Senator, 7th District

Testimony in Support of SB 86

Legislative meetings and the transparency and accountability act

February 10, 2015

Chairman Ralph Ostmeyer
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

Mr. Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the committee. Thank you once again for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of the transparency bill. As most of you remember, last year I appeared in front of this committee to testify in support of SB 413, a transparency bill I introduced in 2014. This committee passed SB 413 unanimously where it was also passed unanimously by the full Senate. Unfortunately, the House Chamber chose not to hear or work the bill. Therefore, that is why I stand before you again this year with SB 86.

SB 86 is a modified version of last year's SB 413. SB 86 provides only real time live internet audio broadcasting rather than both audio and video broadcasting. By elimination of the video option the implementation costs are reduced by approximately \$69,000 dollars

Beginning in January of 2016, audio broadcasts will be made available to the public in four committee rooms. Following the 2017 session, the legislative CITO will report to the LCC and the Joint Committee on Information Technology (JCIT) relative to the expenses incurred; number of visitors listening; feasibility and projected costs for expansion and any possible changes to the broadcasting of legislative meetings. After review by JCIT and upon the recommendation and approval of the LCC, four additional rooms will be equipped in FY 2018 and the remaining in FY 2019.

I personally prefer that both the video and audio option be made available to the public. However, I am hopeful by scaling back the bill, the House of Representatives will be more amenable to ensuring our constituency has access to a more transparent legislative process.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee for your time. I am happy to answer any of questions.

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