

Testimony to Senate Standing Committee on Federal and State Affairs as
proponent of SB 86, Kansas transparency act

Bob Weeks
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Chairman Ostmeyer and members of the committee,

I urge this committee to favorably consider this proposed legislation which will make it possible for Kansans to participate in their state government, even those who are not able to be in the Capitol. The ability to listen to important committee hearings is an important facet of government transparency. Citizens appreciate being able to view or listen to important hearings in Washington on television or internet via C-SPAN. This bill brings some of the same benefit to hearings conducted in Topeka.

I especially appreciate the plans to make the audio recordings available in an archive, so that anyone may listen at any time. This is particularly valuable as not everyone is able to listen to the proceedings live. These archives may also be of interest to historians.

I realize this bill is not without cost, although I am surprised the fiscal note is as high as reported. Nonetheless, I believe an expenditure of this amount would be appreciated by the people of Kansas as they follow the activities of their Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

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