



**Testimony on SB 361
Senate Judiciary Committee
February 2, 2016**

Good Morning 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.

I was honored to serve on the Judicial Council committee this summer and fall that spent hours researching and discussing this open records bill. The KAB have been a consistent advocate for transparency and citizen participation in their government and open records are a major part of that democracy. So this is not a "media" bill – but rather a "people's" bill.

There is no room in our government for public employees or officials to avoid open records laws by conducting their business on private devices. As mentioned in other testimony, technology has raced faster than laws and we have the opportunity with this bill to play catch up.

Although there was tremendous work by our committee looking at other states and court decisions, the bill is simple. Regardless of how or with what device an officer or public employee conducts state business, it is an open record with certain privacy exceptions.

The Kansas Open Records Act states "It is declared to be the public policy of the state that public records shall be open for inspection by any person unless otherwise provided by this act, and this act shall be liberally construed and applied to promote such policy." I urge your support of Senate bill 361.

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

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