



Kansas Press Association, Inc.

Dedicated to serving and advancing the interests of Kansas newspapers

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Feb. 7, 2018

To: Rep. John Barker, chair, House Federal and State Affairs Committee, and committee members

From: Doug Anstaett, executive director, Kansas Press Association

Re: Proponent for passage of HB 2562

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I am Doug Anstaett, executive director of the Kansas Press Association. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss our newspaper association's support of House Bill 2562, which would pave the way for a more well-informed citizenry and increased governmental transparency.

The Kansas City Star's recent series on transparency issues in Kansas, "Why So Secret, Kansas?" pointed out a number of issues that must be addressed. It appears legislators are listening to their constituents, who have concerns about the way we do business at the Legislature, the secrecy that tends to exist in who proposes bills and for whom and the fact that many Kansans simply don't understand the process.

Because so few of our citizens have the time or the resources to come to Topeka to observe and participate in the legislative process, it is imperative that the people's business be brought to them. Of course, not every Kansan is interested in watching the day-to-day activities of their elected officials, but many of them are. They need access; this bill seeks to meet that need.

The bill would allow for the live audio streaming of most committee meetings.

Yes, it will cost some money. Yet it will serve the taxpayers by giving those who are interested an opportunity to listen in to proceedings, hear the proponents and opponents discuss their positions and hear legislators as they grapple with the issues.

KPA supports HB 2562 wholeheartedly and asks for your support as well. Thank you.