

# State of Kansas

## Senate Chamber

MARTHA J. "MOLLY" BAUMGARDNER  
STATE SENATOR, 37TH DISTRICT  
29467 MASTERS COURT  
LOUISBURG, KANSAS 66053  
(913) 709-1069

ROOM 224-E, STATE CAPITOL  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
OFFICE: (785) 296-7368  
molly.baumgardner@senate.ks.gov



Testimony in support of Senate Bill 70  
To the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee  
January 31, 2017

Chairman LaTurner, Vice-chair Estes and Federal and State Affairs Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 70. The goal of this bill is to assure accountability and augment the informational process for the people that are governed. I certainly believe it is important for elected, governing bodies to legally discuss protected matters in closed, executive sessions. That is their means for privileged consultation with an attorney, addressing sensitive personnel matters, or even discussing acquisition of real property.

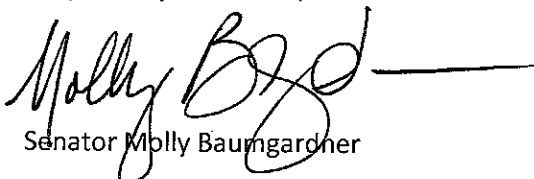
Likewise, the public has the right to know in clear and consistent language why a governing body is meeting in a closed session. I believe this bill appropriately assures that the important role the Fourth Estate plays in helping maintain a functioning democracy won't be directly or indirectly circumvented.

In short, Senate Bill 70 builds upon recent legislative efforts to improve accountability and open communication with Kansans.

- It places the appropriate emphasis on recording the purpose of an executive session or closed meeting.
- It clarifies the singular or differing purposes of a body going into an executive session or closed meeting.
- It remedies inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the existing statute.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for your thoughtful consideration of Senate Bill 70 today. This bill proposes we adopt explanations and clarifications that would be applied to the open meetings that occur throughout our state. I appreciate your support of legislation that demonstrates our commitment to openly serving Kansans.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Senator Molly Baumgardner