



Senate Federal and State Affairs
Written Only Testimony in Support of SB 86
Thursday, February 2, 2017

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I am Kent Cornish, President/Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, representing nearly 280 commercial and non commercial radio and television stations across the state.

The bill, as written, allows for a more uniform and FAIR way of charging for record requests. While I personally believe records maintained by government and paid for by taxpayers, should be free, I recognize in this time it may not be practical. So let's be reasonable.

It's a burden on the public and the media to receive outrageous estimates from one entity while another might provide the same set of records for less - or free. A skeptic might think the estimate is based on the intent to scare away the requestor with an exorbitant fee. Or perhaps that particular entity might see it as a way to increase revenue.

Assuming that is not the case, then the person in charge of record requests should be allowed to do their job in a timely and efficient manner that does not increase the cost. This bill sends the right message to be consistent and FAIR. And while it is not in the bill, I would encourage record keepers to assist requestors by seeking more information about what is being requested. They might be able to save time and money, since requestors may not fully understand how the records are kept – or exactly what is in them.

We support this bill and look forward to passage in this committee and both houses.

Thank you very much for your time.

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