



To: Dear Chairman Barker, Vice-Chairman Awerkamp, Ranking Minority Member Ruiz, and members of the Federal And State Affairs Committee.

From: The League of Women Voters of Kansas, Cille King, Co-President

RE: HB 2067 – Audio and Video Broadcasting of Legislative Hearings – Supporting

Date: February 20, 2019

The League of Women Voters of Kansas supports HB 2067 in regards to providing audio and video broadcasting of all legislative meetings.

We agree with Senator Wagle, who on March 26, 2017 was quoted as saying "... we're in a day and age where a You-Tube video is very inexpensive to make, and so there's just no excuse anymore to not allow public proceedings to be broadcast...It's only fair that we let the people of Kansas see exactly what we're doing." (<http://www.gctelegram.com/9ffc3902-24c5-5c54-8995-1c4d2b17f98f.html>)

The Kansas legislature should make committee meetings available to constituencies across Kansas, so whether they live in Sherman or Crawford County or any county in between, they can hear and SEE discussions on bills that affect them. The current audio system is a great benefit, but, 55% of communication is non-verbal.

A recent example illustrates how beneficial audio and visual recording would have helped all legislators and the public. On Wednesday, February 13, the Federal and State Affairs Committee was hearing HB 2197, the KPERS bill. In the last few minutes, two motions were made, but some committee members were unclear about the nature of the motions and of the votes being taken. The archived recordings were also garbled so it was unclear who was voting yea and if there had been a call for nays. In the House the next day when SB 2197 was brought forward, one member of the committee moved that the bill be sent back to committee due to the unusual way it had been passed out. The debate that followed showed that members of the committee had different memories of what had occurred. Eventually, the motion to send the bill back failed.

If HB 2067 had been in place, the archived proceeding could have shown what had happened. A rule to record committee votes, would have also been helpful.

The League of Women Voters has been a champion of government transparency since its founding in 1920. It is one of the League's core principles. We ask that you vote YES on HB 2067.