

Dear House Judiciary Committee Members:

Chair

Rep. Fred Patton

Vice Chair

Rep. Bradley Ralph

Ranking Minority Member

Rep. John Carmichael

House Members

Rep. Emil Bergquist

Rep. Jesse Burris

Rep. Pam Curtis

Rep. Randy Garber

Rep. Dennis "Boog" Highberger

Rep. Nick Hoheisel

Rep. Susan Humphries

Rep. J. Russell Jennings

Rep. Annie Kuether

Rep. KC Ohaebosim

Rep. Stephen Owens

Rep. Mark Samsel

Rep. Kellie Warren

Rep. John Wheeler

I noticed on Speaker Ryckman's agenda that your Committee will be meeting to discuss "potential open records act exceptions during the coronavirus emergency" May 13, 15, and 18th.

I wish to express my concerns with the consideration of such a proposal.

The plague has been used as an excuse to trample civil liberties, and government leaders throughout our country have gotten away with it because lawsuits take a very long time to work their way through the system to stop them.

Many of the decisions by public officials have been sprung upon the citizens, and were voided of robust public debate, minutes recordings, and audio/visual access.

Kansans need more government transparency during these unprecedented times, not less.

Considerations regarding KOMA and KORA should be focused on how to make government activities "more accessible to the public" in the midst of shutdown.

Please do not choose to hinder,,or limit public access.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg A. Cromer, Overland Park