

HB 2495 Proponent Testimony - WRITTEN-ONLY
House Judiciary Committee
James Franko - President
Tuesday 25 January 2022



Chairman Patton and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2495.

Transparency is good and essential for government. But, privacy is for people. The bill before you recognizes this fundamental distinction and truth.

We fully support the public having the information they need to evaluate the merits of policies and ideas – the underlying facts, how people would be impacted, and what lessons can be learned from similar experiences in other states, cities, or even other countries. In fact, that commitment to transparency is a large part of what we do at Kansas Policy Institute. We aim to provide facts and other pertinent information that often isn't available otherwise, so citizens can make informed decisions.

Members of KPI staff have been forced to file police reports arising from threats after we expressed opinions. We've also been subjected to repeated and aggressive phone calls and e-mails. Some of this is to be lamentably expected but proposals like the bill before you today help ensure that boorish behavior does not violate fundamental rights.

Kansas Justice Institute, a subsidiary of KPI, also signed onto an amicus brief before the United States Supreme Court in *AFPP v. Bonta*. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of KJI's position on this important First Amendment issue this summer.

All of which is to say, the right of privacy, speech, and association are essential to our republic and the bill before you helps ensure they are protected at the state level. Thank you for your consideration.