



March 7, 2016
Rep. John Barker
Chair,
House Judiciary Committee

RE: Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government Testimony in Support of SB 361

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I write you as President of the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government to support enactment of Senate Bill 361.

As the legislative record reflects, this important piece of legislation has received a favorable reaction from virtually everyone who has weighed in on it, including the Attorney General and the Kansas Senate, which passed SB 361 by a vote of 39-0. The Coalition believes the support of this measure, besides just being the right thing to do, stemmed, in part, from the careful work undertaken by a bipartisan committee of the Kansas Judicial Council last fall to make sure the bill accomplishes its mission of further opening the government's business to the people without invading the privacy of anyone's non-government related business.

The Sunshine Coalition urges the Committee's favorable report of Senate Bill 361.

Finally, and just for the Committee's edification, the Sunshine Coalition for Open Government is a statewide organization of journalism and law professors, members of the news media and other private citizens committed to promoting open government in Kansas. Its Board members include the Executive Directors of the Kansas Press Association, Kansas Association of Broadcasters and representatives of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Kansas League of Women Voters, among others. It is housed at the Elliott School of Mass Communication at Wichita State University, where the Coalition was founded in 2000.

While I do not plan to offer oral testimony on this bill, I will be in attendance when the Committee takes it up in case there are questions of the Coalition. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Ron Keefover
President,
Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government