

Chairman Patton and members of the Judiciary committee, my name is Brittany Jones. I am an attorney and the Director of Policy and Engagement for Kansas Family Voice, formerly Family Policy Alliance of Kansas.

Kansas Family Voice believes in three guiding principles, God's timeless design for family, the sanctity and dignity of every human life, and the free exercise of religion. It is for these reasons that we urge your support of HB 2495.

HB 2495 prohibits public agencies from disclosing or releasing personal information about membership, volunteers, and financial and non-financial donors of nonprofit organizations, except as required by law. It would also protect individuals who volunteer or give to causes they care about from having their personal information publicly disclosed on a government list.

The bill will strengthen and ensure that a person's individual right to believe and to act is not infringed on by or through the state. There are a myriad of reasons Kansans may choose to keep their donations private including, but not limited to privacy concerns, religious convictions, and fear of harassment or retaliation.

Many donors wish to remain anonymous due to religious convictions. The Bible provides examples of the virtue of anonymous giving. For example, in the gospel of Matthew, Jesus say, "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them." Many people of faith would seek to keep donations private simply out of desire to follow this command.

Further, it would be a violation of their rights to speech to force organizations like ours to disclose this information. The right to give privately has been upheld several times by the Supreme Court, including in last summer's Americans for Prosperity Foundation case and in the 1958 NAACP v. Alabama case. In 1958, the Supreme Court ruled that the State of Alabama could not force the NAACP to turn over its members and donors without violating the First Amendment.

Without the protections of House Bill 2495, organizations will be at risk of violating the privacy of their donors. The government should not use its coercive power to force private entities to do its bidding. We expect transparency from government because government works for the people. But government doesn't have any right to force these kinds of disclosures on the private financial decisions of Kansans.

Kansans deserve the ability to express their sincerely held religious convictions by supporting organizations without fear of violence, harassment, or intimidation. On behalf of Kansas Family Voice, we urge your support for HB 2495.

Thank you for your time today.