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Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 427 An Act Concerning the Open Records Act

Presented to the Senate Committee on Judiciary By Assistant Attorney General Jordan Brewer, Tobacco Enforcement Unit

February 20, 2020

Chairman Wilborn and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Attorney General respectfully submits the following testimony to the Committee in support of Section 4 of Senate Bill 427, An Act Concerning the Open Records Act. I express no position on the other provisions included in this bill.

Section 4 of this bill removes the expiration clause in subsection (f) of K.S.A. 50-6a11. This subsection keeps confidential all tobacco sales data shared between the director, attorney general, and data clearinghouse.

The calculations performed pursuant to the master settlement agreement require this data to be shared by the parties involved. In order to do so, pursuant to agreement, the data must be kept confidential by the parties. Without this confidentiality, the data would not be shared and certain calculations would not be performed. This could have a negative impact the state's annual payment.

Therefore, for purposes of the state's congoing obligations under the master settlement agreement, it is important to remove the expiration and allow this statute to continue into the future and keep the data confidential.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General.

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