



Hearing Date: January 21, 2021

HB2049: Hearing on Prohibiting a public agency from charging a fee under the open records act for records requested for an audit by the legislative division of post audit.

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

I'm Allison Mazzei, president of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters. I represent the 260 broadcast stations that are members of the KAB.

I write today to express opposition to HB2049 because it gives special treatment to a state agency while denying the same benefits to members of the public, journalists, newspapers, broadcast stations, and others seeking access to public records.

We believe HB2049 should be expanded beyond just the Legislative Division of Post Audit. We propose it be expanded to include language from SB 434, introduced last year. It did not receive a hearing due to the shortened session. (See document attached).

SB 434 would grant governmental agencies the discretion to treat requests made in the "public interest" differently from other requests. "Public interest" is defined as (A) Likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government; and (B) not primarily in the commercial interest of the person requesting the records.

Broadcasters and other journalists serve public interest and also need affordable access to public records in order to provide accurate, unbiased information to the public.

I appreciate your time in discussing this important matter. Thank you.