



## **Kansas Press Association, Inc.**

*Dedicated to serving and advancing the interests of Kansas newspapers*

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Jan. 27, 2021

To: Sen. Elaine Bowers, chair, and members of the Senate Transparency and Ethics Committee

From: Doug Anstaett, consultant and lobbyist, Kansas Press Association

Re: Opposition to SB 17

Sen. Bowers and members of the Committee:

I am Doug Anstaett, former executive director of the Kansas Press Association now serving as a consultant and lobbyist to the association. I represent the 200 daily, nondaily and college newspapers that are members of the KPA.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss our association's opposition to SB 17.

This bill is unnecessary. In the House Judiciary Committee last week, we were told that protection from charges for public records requests are already baked into the Legislative Post Audit statute in Kansas.

We oppose this bill because it carves out yet another exception to transparency that simply would become an example for others to seek special treatment that isn't available to the public and the media.

We have fought for decades for fairness in the way the costs associated with Kansas Open Records Act requests are handled by state and local agencies of government. We've never asked that they be free of charge, only that those charges be reasonable.

Our view is that this bill is a "belt and suspenders" approach to something LPA itself admits isn't now a problem.

I ask that you reject this bill because it is a solution looking for a problem.

Thank you.