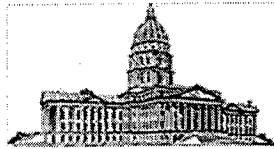


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**Testimony Regarding House Bill 2188
Presented to the House Judiciary Committee
By Senator Michael O'Donnell**

February 12, 2013

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in regarding House Bill 2188.

In my role as a city councilman I was unable to see how Wichita money was spent with organizations such as Go Wichita, WDDC and GWEDC unless I happened to be one of the select people appointed to the GWEDC steering council (in the case of Wichita it is the Mayor and City Manager).

That is wrong.

I had residents asking to know how money was being spent and these groups weren't sharing that information. They are conducting work on behalf of taxpayers and their expenses are shielded from public review.

When different groups brought this to the council's attention a majority of my colleagues refused to ask GWEDC and others to disclose how they spent our money. This was after groups had asked this group for the information and were rebuffed because of a loophole in the current disclosure requirements.

It shouldn't be that hard for taxpayers to know how their money is being spent.