

Chairman Ostmeyer and Members of the Committee,

This communication on behalf of Johnson County is in regard to concerns with Senate Bill 10. Johnson County strongly supports transparency in all government proceedings, and is a leader in this area, but the provisions in this bill can have unintended negative consequences.

- All regular Johnson County Commission meetings, as well as Committee of the Whole work sessions, are already streamed live and video-recorded and archived for public access on the internet at any time. This high level of transparency has been in use by Johnson County for 5 years.
- Johnson County's methods to increase access and transparency, including written minutes of the meetings, may not work at all levels of government so the format should remain a matter of local decision.
- As written the provisions allowing the Secretary of State to determine the format for meeting minutes could be applied inconsistently to different governmental units.
- The inability to charge for staff time could create a situation where fees for copies do not equal costs. For instance, five hours of staff research time needed for a one page response.

We very much appreciate your consideration of the concerns that have been raised. We continue to believe that Johnson County's process of providing live-streaming of the meetings and archived video recordings for public access at any time provide the highest level of transparency concerning governmental decisions. If this legislation is to move forward any provisions pre-determining the format of meeting minutes should be removed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ed Eilert
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Johnson County, KS