



Community Resources Council
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Testimony: HB 2188
Non-Profit Entities and Mandatory Financial Reporting Data Base
House Judiciary Committee
February 12, 2013
By: Nancy Johnson, Executive Director
Community Resources Council of Shawnee County

Chairman Kinzer and Members of the Committee:

The Community Resources Council (CRC) of Shawnee County would like to express our strong opposition to HB 2188. As a non-profit whose mission is to connect resources through collaboration, advocacy, research and education, this reporting requirement would cause a financial and man-power hardship.

CRC represents many non-profits who provide the basic needs to our most vulnerable population. In Shawnee County the poverty rate continues to climb, more children are coming into our Rescue Mission, our Free and Reduced Lunch recipients continues to climb, those with mental illness are at a record number and more meals are being delivered to our elderly. Many of our agencies are stretched to the limit with fewer resources and yet the demand is at its highest with no end in sight.

Through education, CRC works with our non-profits in assisting them to do more with less; be it funding or staffing. We understand financial constraints and have worked hard to write grants which exemplify collaboration. We also know staff is stretched and we offer tools which help seasoned and not so seasoned Chief Executive Officers ideas in how to cross-train and better understand their staffing needs. In addition, CRC works with the Governor's Faith Based Initiative and knows that the administration believes strongly that collaboration is one of the keys in meeting the needs of our vulnerable population.

CRC is funded through the city of Topeka, Shawnee County, grants with the Center for Disease Control through Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Health Foundation, MAACLink through Housing and Urban Development, United Way of Greater Topeka and our membership. CRC has received city and county monies for years and have and will continue to meet the written requirements of such funding. For

the past three years CRC has been the recipient of a Federal Sodium Initiative and again we have met all reporting requirements.

Please understand CRC is not opposed to open records; in fact, we welcome the public to review our 990 Form as posted on guidestar.com. Our yearly audit is available to all of our funders and the public. We feel we and our members have and continue to perform our due diligence.

While many look at this bill as transparency, CRC views this bill as a death sentence to many of our agencies. To require CRC or our members to have such searchable database would require hiring additional staff and then to maintain the web page more staff.

Community Resources Council supports transparency but we do not support being fiscally irresponsible and we feel this bill is just that. As a non-profit with a yearly audit which cost close to \$10,000, this bill imposes additional, unnecessary costs.

In today's society where resources are precious and the needs of our citizens climbing. Does it make sense to spend the money on feeding children, mentor those who are having difficulty reading at a 3rd grade level, deliver meals to a shut-in senior, offer a bed to someone who has no shelter for the night, care for a child so he/she is not left alone while his/her parents work a second job or is it more fiscally responsible to hire a person to do a searchable database and keep up the web-site? This is not the time to encumber non-profits with more regulations but to support them.

Before voting, I ask you to consider two questions: 1. What is gained with this bill? And, 2. Why is it necessary?

These are tough economic times, this is a time for us to be working together, a time for us to be laying the ground work for a better Kansas, and finally a time for us to be unified not adversaries. On behalf of Community Resources Council and our 70 members I request you oppose HB 2188.