

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-7567
john.whitmer@house.ks.gov



P.O. Box 2862
Wichita, Kansas 67201
(316) 990-1095 Cell

John R. Whitmer
Representative, 93rd District

Testimony to the House Federal & State Affairs Committee
In Support of HB 2562

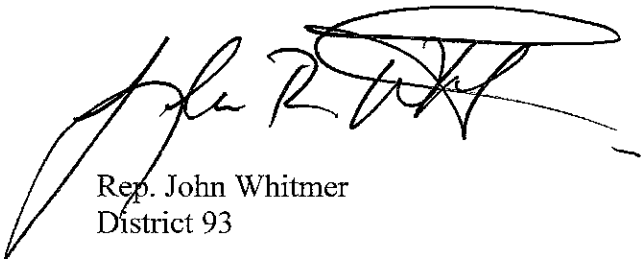
Chairman Barker and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today in support of HB 2562. I was a proud co-sponsor of the Kansas Transparency Act which was the culmination of the efforts of a number of other colleagues to bring greater transparency to the legislative process by providing for the live-streaming of committee hearings and the general sessions of both chambers. HB 2562 is the next step in that process.

The current live-streaming process was accomplished through administrative action, this bill ensures that process by placing it into statute. It further requires that all recordings be archived for a minimum of two-years. Finally, beginning on January 1, 2020, video broadcasts shall be made of all legislative committee meetings and the general sessions of both chambers.

The government of a free people should be open to those people and an open and transparent government is essential to the democratic process. Thomas Jefferson once said "Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom", I believe a wise and just government is honest with the people, regardless of the cost.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify this morning, I'd be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Whitmer". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rep. John Whitmer
District 93