



March 15, 2017
Sen. Rick Wilborn, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee

RE: WRITTEN ONLY Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government Testimony Opposing
HB 2070

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I write you as President of the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government, a statewide organization of journalism and law professors, members of the news media and other private citizens committed to promoting open government in Kansas.

The Coalition, in short, opposes this bill viewing it as yet another means of obscuring accountability for a segment of our government, which we believe is a pillar of our democratic society, its law enforcement officers. We do not believe the registry of law enforcement officers maintained by CPOST warrants any additional degree of secrecy than registries of other professions now licensed and certified in Kansas.

For example, and I speak first-hand based on many years of experience, that such registries as those for judges and attorneys (and other professionals certified statewide in their specialty) are now and have been readily accessible by the public for many years without issues. For the legal profession, all one need do for access is contact the office of the Clerk of Appellate Courts. In fact, should an attorney or judicial disciplinary infraction result in a public censure or higher penalty, the discipline imposed and the factual basis for it are published on the Internet for anyone to read.

The Sunshine Coalition opposes this special interest legislation.

While I do not plan to offer oral testimony on this bill, I will be in attendance when the Committee takes it up in case there are questions of the Coalition. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,
Ron Keefover
President
Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government