



**Unified Government of  
Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas**

701 North Seventh Street  
Kansas City, Kansas 66101  
(913) 573-5311 • info@wycokck.org

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

**House Bill 2134**

**Wendy Green, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel  
On behalf of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas**

**House Judiciary Committee  
February 3, 2025**

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Humphries and Members of the Committee:

My name is Wendy Green and I am the Deputy Chief Counsel for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. I am presenting this testimony in opposition of House Bill 2134.

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas received 4,727 requests under KORA in 2024 and entered 2024 with 19,292 requests pending. Any changes to the Kansas Open Records Act vastly impacts our organization.

The proposed amendment to K.S.A. 45-219 which would add section (c)(5)(B) effectively discounts the amount of time attorneys for local governments spend analyzing requests for applicable exceptions and possible redactions needed to documents. Although departments can and have been trained to know when certain exceptions apply, some exceptions require detailed legal analysis beyond the knowledge of administrative staff. Mandating the same fee to be charged for all government employees' time is inequitable and portrays that employees' time is not valuable.

Further, the addition of (d)(1) to K.S.A. 45-219 pertaining to an appeal of the reasonableness of fees charged will only add to the length of the agendas of the meetings of governing bodies of political or taxing subdivisions preventing them from conducting business for

the majority of their constituents. Further, the governing body would be determining whether fees it would be receiving the benefit of for its general fund were excessive, which creates a conflict of interest. Finally, there is already a method of appeal in that a person requesting documents through this Act may file a complaint with the Attorney General or the District Attorney or civil action through K.S.A. 45-222, should they feel they were charged excessive fees.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the UG's perspective on this issue. On behalf of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, I urge you to not to recommend House Bill 2134 for passage.