



**KANSAS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**COUNTIES**

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House Local Government Committee  
February 12, 2025  
HB 2160

Kansas Association of Counties  
Neutral Testimony – Written Only

Chairman Bergquist and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer opponent testimony on HB 2160, which would create a modified whistleblower act for municipalities, which would include both cities and counties.

Typically, whistleblower protections are extended to employees that report violations of law or regulations. Paragraph (c)(1) seems to suggest that discussing operations or matters of public concern with a legislator or auditing agency would qualify for protection under this act. In some cases, this protection may be appropriate.

However, in cases where this disclosure is not concerning the violation of a rule, ordinance, law, regulation or other binding authority, disclosure may not be appropriate and should therefore not be protected. For example, if an employee has signed an NDA it would not be appropriate to discuss a confidential matter with a legislator. Whether it would be appropriate to discuss with post audit would depend on the nature of the audit and the information disclosed. A blanket protection is probably too extensive.

Extending whistleblower protections beyond reporting illegal activities or violations of rules could create unintended consequences. As a result, KAC cannot ask the committee to advance this bill at this time. Thank you for your time and attention.

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