

Neutral Written Testimony for House Rules & Journal Committee

1-18-23

Dear House Rules Committee members:

The Kansas Coalition for Open Government, previously known as the “Sunshine Coalition,” is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that, since its inception in 1999, has helped make Kansas government more transparent.

Kansas Legislators will soon be receiving an email from the president of the KCOG soon saying “Do you support any of the eight legislative reforms suggested in the Kansas Reflector’s articles published May 8 and May 17? Why or why not?”

The KCOG will share the responses in about a month.

I ask this committee to eliminate the bundling and pre-bundling and have committees pass out of committee a bill on one topic. For instance, last year, at the end of the session, to pass the education funding bill, many bills were added to it, and many of those were “pre-bundled “ in committee. An example- pass a funding bill. Period. Pass a “parents bill of rights”. Period.

I would also ask that if a “parents bill of rights” is brought up in committee, the opponents and the proponents be given equal time per person so all may be heard. I also ask that the committee chairs work each bill where a majority of the committee desires such. When it passes out of committee, the bill is sent to the floor for consideration. No chair of a governing body should have the power to prohibit a bill be brought to the body of the whole.

Thank you.

Chris Huntsman