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Testimony on House Bill 2247
House Local Government Committee

Chairwoman Williams and Members of the Committee,

I am here today on behalf of Johnson County Government and the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners. We support House Bill 2247.

We have advocated for years to secure the option to publish official communications on our County website. Our current website meets the criteria established in Section 1 (s) of House Bill 2247 including public access without a password and no fees. Further, we appreciate the option for the official internet website to serve as the official publication because an internet based publication allows global access to information in a searchable, archived forever repository. Notice to the public is available to everyone on the Internet, not just to those, contrary to the goal of this bill, who must pay for that notice with a subscription.

Johnson County Government expends hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars each year to publish in the newspaper all the required public notices. The Commission has discussed efforts to make wholesale transitions to electronic notification and publications to save coveted taxpayer funds. Additionally, with the closure of the Johnson County Sun in 2011, we have used the Kansas City Star, not a Kansas company, and the Olathe News with a circulation of 6,000. In Johnson County, electronic notification on the official county website is the best viable alternative.

We estimate that House Bill 2247 will save Johnson County \$70,000 per year. Any effort to reduce expenditures is a benefit for all Johnson County taxpayers.

I appreciate your consideration and will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Stuart J. Little
Johnson County Intergovernmental Relations Manager