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City of Lawrence

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Representative Sean Tarwater
Chairman, House Commerce Committee

March 10, 2023

Re: HB 2447

Dear Representative Tarwater,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, on behalf of the City of Lawrence, in opposition to HB 2447 which is titled as "prohibiting the banning of products or services otherwise permitted under state law."

I write to urge the committee to reject this extremely broad pre-emptive legislation. Our locally elected officials are accountable to the voters for the decisions they make on behalf of our community. HB 2447 would erode the Home Rule Authority of Kansas cities, granted by the people in this State in 1960 through amendment to the Kansas Constitution. This legislation would gut the ability of cities to use their police power to maintain the safety and security of its community. In practical terms, this legislation could remove our ability to be responsive to issues that a community has prioritized, in areas where there is a range of tolerance levels in that community

The City of Lawrence, for the reasons stated above respectfully requests the Committee to consider the points made about this preemptive legislation, and not to recommend HB 2447 favorably for passage.

Craig S Owens
City Manager

