

To: House Financial Institutions & Pensions Committee

From: Wendi Stark, Research Associate

Date: March 15, 2023

RE: Proponent Testimony on SB 34 – Oral In-Person Testimony

We want to thank Chairman Hoheisel and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 34.

One of the biggest concerns we hear from our member cities is the lack of good housing options. Across the entire state, quality housing has been a serious impediment to growth and economic development. As such, our members have directed us, through our Statement of Municipal Policy, to support programs that encourage access to quality housing. SB 34 provides additional funding streams for needed construction and renovations to residential dwellings across the state.

First, SB 34 expands upon the Rural Housing Incentive District Act (RHID) which allows cities and counties to use bond proceeds to fund the renovation or construction of residential structures on existing lots with existing infrastructure. This expansion would now allow all cities to further invest in existing neighborhoods, utilizing resources already in place to expand a community's housing potential and restore residential structures that have fallen into disrepair.

Second, SB 34 expands the scope for dwellings, multi-family units or buildings, or other structures that would be eligible for construction or renovation. The expansion of the RHID program will be a real catalyst for growth in our cities and has the potential to make real progress in addressing a state-wide issue. Lack of housing is an issue that is being faced by all cities in the state, and the expansion of this program would be a tool available to any city willing and able to utilize it.

The League supports SB 34 and asks this Committee to recommend it favorably for passage.