

To: House Committee on Welfare Reform  
From: Nathan Eberline, Executive Director  
Date: March 5, 2024  
RE: Testimony Supporting House Bill 2723 (Homeless Shelter Infrastructure Funding)

Thank you to Chairman Averkamp and the Committee for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2723, which would provide essential support for communities across the state of Kansas to address the state-wide issue of homelessness. As the homelessness numbers have risen across Kansas, this issue is one that requires coordination and cooperation between each level of government. Homelessness and housing instability are not isolated within our largest cities; they affect communities of all sizes in Kansas, and HB 2723 will help our cities work with the state to address homelessness issues.

HB 2723 proposes a grant program administered by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, specifically aimed at supporting local governments in building or improving shelters for homeless individuals and families. One notable aspect of this bill is the requirement for a 1:1 grant match, demonstrating the commitment our communities must make to address homelessness intentionally.

This funding is essential as it can only be used on homeless shelter infrastructure and improvements, ensuring that resources are allocated directly to addressing the needs of our homeless population. Further, the approach provided in HB 2723 includes a statewide solution with local implementation, which will ensure buy-in and shared problem-solving.

The League of Kansas Municipalities urges the House Committee on Welfare Reform to support House Bill 2723. The funding opportunity provided by this bill will help move Kansas forward intentionally as we seek to decrease the rates of homelessness across our state. By working together at the state and local levels, we can make significant strides in addressing this critical issue.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of HB 2723. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

**Nathan Eberline**  
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