



Little
Government
Relations

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February 21, 2022

Testimony in Opposition to SB 252 Senate Assessment & Taxation

Chair Tyson and Members of the Senate Taxation Committee:

The Northeast Johnson County cities of Merriam, Mission, Prairie Village, and Westwood Hills express their opposition to SB 252 which would provide for a property tax exemption for businesses perceived to be in “competition” with governmental entities.

Creating a property tax exemption for for-profit businesses sets a disruptive precedent that could compromise the ability of cities, school districts, special districts, and other jurisdictions. Our communities elect our leadership with the expectation they continue to provide and manage services our communities expect and support as well as adequate funding to provide these essential services.

When similar legislation was proposed in 2021, it dealt primarily with health clubs. Using just that one entity as an example demonstrates the impact this type of legislation would have on our communities. For example, Genesis Health Club in Merriam, Kansas, pays roughly \$81,000 in annual property tax, \$18,900 of which goes to the City of Merriam and \$36,364 going to local schools.

Governmental entities, from our community centers to our libraries, serve vital roles and provide enriching experiences for all of our citizens. SB 252 would disrupt the ability of our local governments to continue providing these services in the future, while also unnecessarily shifting the property tax burden onto residential taxpayers.

For these reasons we ask you to oppose SB 252. Thank you for your consideration and I welcome any questions you may have on this matter.

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