

To: House Commerce Committee

From: Trey Cocking, Deputy Director

Date: February 15, 2021

RE: Proponent Testimony for HB 2442 (Written Only)

I want to thank Chairman Tarwater and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2442.

As cities across Kansas face the looming “silver tsunami,” as the remaining baby boomers retire en masse. It is critical to find ways to engage students that are currently in the community and show them how they can pursue a career in their hometown. Cities offer multiple career paths from general government, to law enforcement, to firefighting, to street maintenance, to electrical lineman, to water and sewer plant operator, and to a host of other careers.

HB 2442 will provide a safety net for cities to engage in these programs, and not have to spend hours working through potential liability challenges that come with workplace engagement programs.

This bill is the product of multiple years of work to find the right balance between increasing opportunities for students while also ensuring appropriate insurance policies are in place to protect students in these non-traditional learning environments. The League supports the changes that this bill would make to current law and respectfully requests that the committee recommend HB 2442 favorably to the full House for consideration.