

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Amanda L. Stanley, General Counsel

Date: February 9, 2021

RE: HB 2227 – Proponent Testimony Written Only

We want to thank Chairman Patton and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2227.

The last eleven months have produced numerous challenges for local governments and the state. As a state, we have used a process of trial and error to figure out what works.

One process that has worked well was the legislative action giving the Chief Justice the authority to authorize two-way electronic audio-visual communication as needed in all courts across the State in response to a disaster authority. We see benefits to extending this authority to whenever the Chief Justice finds it necessary to secure the health and safety of court users, staff, and judicial officers; or when necessary to expeditiously resolve pending cases.

Because of the potential benefits of this increased flexibility in the use of technology in our courts, we support this portion of HB 2227.