

To: House Committee on Taxation
From: Spencer Duncan, Government Affairs Director
Date: January 30, 2023
RE: HB 2036 – Veteran’s Property Tax Exemption
In Opposition – Written Testimony

The League of Kansas Municipalities opposes policies that erode the overall tax base. Too many tax exemptions create a system that puts the tax burden on too few citizens instead of a more equitable distribution which can lead to overall tax reductions for everyone. HB 2036 creates yet another exemption that will have a negative economic impact on cities. We ask you to vote NO on HB 2036.

Cities across Kansas work to support Veterans in their communities and will continue to support programs that honor and support them for the service they give to our Country. While the overall objective of HB 2036 has value and deserves consideration, the impact to municipalities, without adjustments to HB 2036, will be negative.

HB 2036 should contain an income-based provision. The bill should be limited to those who face real economic struggles and economic need. This bill should not be an umbrella approach that includes those who may not be in-need of the exemption. Other states include such a provision.

The bill should be limited to exempting Veterans from the State of Kansas property tax levy, while leaving local property tax levies in place. Local taxes should remain under local control, allowing local units of government and their citizens to determine who can receive exemptions.

The state has the right to make determinations on what it will do with its portion of property tax, but any exemption considered by the Legislature should leave whole local sales tax collections to be determined at the local level.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues. I am always available to provide additional information and answer any questions you have.



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