

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

From: John Goodyear, General Counsel

Date: March 21, 2023

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2216

I want to thank Chairwoman Warren and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2216.

HB 2216 would remove the mandatory term of imprisonment for those individuals convicted of driving on a suspended license if their license was suspended for failure to pay fines. This legislation is narrowly tailored and well poised to help those individuals in our state that struggle to make ends meet – if they are unable to fines and fees owed to the court, five days out of work while they serve a mandatory sentence is going to hinder their ability to do so even more. Further, it should be noted that this legislation would not remove the ability for a judge to utilize their discretion and order jail time where it appears that penalty is justified.

The League supports efforts aimed at addressing cycles of recidivism and indigency in our communities. HB 2216 is legislation drafted with those cycles in mind and with the goal of creating a more equitable justice system throughout our state.

The League is supportive of this effort to help those members of our community that may be struggling and would ask that the Committee recommend HB 2216 favorably for passage.