

City Hall
8500 Santa Fe Drive
Overland Park, Kansas 66212
www.opkansas.org

Date: March 13, 2023
To: Chairman Tarwater & the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic
Development
From: City of Overland Park
Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2447

Thank you for allowing the City of Overland Park to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2447. The City of Overland Park opposes further limits to home rule authority and we support the full control and authority over those matters which are granted to municipalities by the Kansas Constitution as approved by voters in 1960.

The City supports Constitutional home rule authority of Kansas cities, which provides, in part, "...cities are hereby empowered to determine their own local affairs and government..." Thus, self-governance, and local control, is the rule established by our state's constitution.

HB 2447 is so broad that it would invalidate the City's current ordinances that prohibit the sale of cigarettes to individuals under the age of 21; prohibit unlicensed massage operations (which have historically been centers for prostitution and human trafficking); regulate activities based on how an area is zoned; and infringe upon numerous other policy decisions that have made Overland Park one of the best cities in the country.

Our Mayor and Council are elected to handle local issues and are the government closest to our residents and businesses. They are best prepared to assess, evaluate, regulate and set public policy as they believe is in the best interest of the community. HB 2447 would limit that authority and the ability of our Governing Body to be responsive to their constituents' interests and desires.

Thank you for allowing the City to testify on this legislation. We respectfully request that the Committee not advance HB 2447 to the full House.