

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

Date: January 31, 2023
To: Chairwoman Erickson & the Senate Committee on Commerce
From: City of Overland Park – Michael Koss, Deputy City Attorney
Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 47

Thank you for allowing the City of Overland Park to submit testimony in opposition to SB 47. 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.

Our Mayor and Council are fully authorized to handle local issues and problems such as is proposed in SB 47. They are the government closest to our residents and businesses, and are best prepared to assess, evaluate, regulate and set public policy as they believe is in the best interest of the community. SB 47 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 SB 47 to the full Senate.