

**City Hall**  
**8500 Santa Fe Drive**  
**Overland Park, Kansas 66212**  
**[www.opkansas.org](http://www.opkansas.org)**

Date: March 7, 2023  
To: Chairman Thompson & the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
From: City of Overland Park  
Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 224

Thank you for allowing the City of Overland Park to submit testimony in opposition to SB 224. 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.

SB 224 would impose additional contracting requirements on the City and create new fiduciary duties for officials managing the City's retirement plans. There is no compelling reason to impose these additional burdens. 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. SB 224 would limit that authority and the ability of our Governing Body to be responsive to their constituents' interests and desires.

For these reasons, the Committee should strongly consider removing cities from the definition of "governmental entity" so the state mandates within SB 224 only apply to state operations.

Thank you for allowing the City to testify on this legislation. We respectfully request that the Committee not advance SB 224 to the full Senate unless cities are removed from the definition of "governmental entity."