

**Testimony of Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health
To House Committee on Taxation
Written Proponent Testimony of HB 2074 | February 6, 2025**

Chairman Smith and members of the committee,

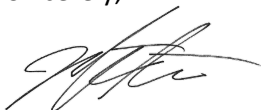
Thank you for allowing Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health (LDCPH) the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony for HB 2074, which would include homestead renters as eligible to participate in certain homestead property tax refund claims. LDCPH serves Lawrence and Douglas County residents to create abundant and equitable opportunities for good health.

This bill would significantly reduce the tax burden on both renters and homeowners in Douglas County. In Douglas County's 2024-2029 Community Health Improvement Plan, our community identified economic security, housing, and improved financial stability as key pillars of health and wellbeing in the county. Passing this legislation would significantly improve opportunities for Douglas County residents to keep more income and improve other negative health factors such as food security.ⁱ

Further, while Douglas County has several cities with more urban areas, many of our largest areas of need are rural communities, including rural homestead style mobile homes, multi-unit dwellings, and multi-use buildings. Older individuals and young families are particularly burdened with taxes, as many of them already live in poverty and struggle to pay bills, afford nutritious food, and lack transportation.ⁱⁱ This legislation would provide one less barrier for these communities.

We hope that you consider renters as you consider HB 2074 and encourage you to vote this legislation favorably for passage.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Smith, MPH
Executive Director
Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health

ⁱ Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health. (2024). 2024-2029 Community Health Improvement Plan. In *Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health*. Retrieved February 4, 2025, from <https://ldchealth.org/DocumentCenter/View/5485/2024-2029-Community-Health-Improvement-Plan>

ⁱⁱ *Kansas*. (n.d.). National Low Income Housing Coalition. <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/kansas>



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