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Date: March 15, 2023

To: Chairman Hoheisel and the House Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions

From: City of Overland Park

Re: SB 34 – Support (Written)

The City of Overland Park supports legislation that makes new and existing housing more affordable. Redevelopment and reinvestment in housing is a priority for Overland Park as evidenced by our 2023 State Legislative program, Citywide strategic goals and Forward OP community vision.

In 2021 a Community Housing Study was conducted by the United Community Services for all cities in Johnson County, Kansas. According to that study, approximately 4,633 additional owner occupied housing units priced below \$250,000 are needed in Overland Park. This type of housing is commonly referred to as the “missing middle.” Other Cities in Johnson County also face similar challenges with identifying ways to provide missing middle housing. With limited housing variety and a small supply of first-time home buyer options, it is currently difficult to provide attainable options for all residents.

Overland Park and Johnson County as a whole will continue to see population growth over the next ten years at least. Opportunities to build or renovate homes in accordance with the proposed Senate Bill 34 would allow for more affordable housing and accessible homeownership in Overland Park.

Consistent with our positions in support of redevelopment and reinvestment of housing, the City of Overland Park is in support of SB 34, which expands the use and availability of rural housing incentive districts.

Thank you for allowing the City to submit testimony in support of SB 34. We respectfully request that the Committee advance this legislation to the full House.