



February 11, 2013

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RE: House Bill 2188

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony. My name is Ashley Jones-Wisner and I am Director of State Policy at Greater Kansas City LISC. Greater Kansas City LISC is a program area of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the nation's largest community development organization, dedicated to revitalizing urban core and rural neighborhoods. Currently, Greater Kansas City LISC's signature program, NeighborhoodsNOW, serves three Kansas City, Kansas Neighborhoods: Douglass-Summer, Downtown KCK and St. Peter/Waterway.

In order to ensure the success of our NeighborhoodsNOW program and the revitalization of our target neighborhoods, Greater Kansas City LISC funds numerous nonprofits in Kansas City. These nonprofits already comply with IRS, State and Federal reporting guidelines, in addition to LISC's reporting requirements. The work they do is difficult by nature, but has become increasingly challenging due to the economic downturn. They operate with extremely limited staff and resources. This bill would only increase this burden, to the point where we undoubtedly will see numerous nonprofits in Kansas City and throughout the state have to close their doors.

In almost all cases, community development corporations are the developers of last resort. Most of the areas serviced by nonprofits have experienced severe disinvestment over a prolonged period of time. Working in such disinvestment is hard, time-intensive work. House Bill 2188 and its additional reporting requirements would add an additional layer of difficulty for nonprofits and would take away valuable time and resources that should be spent on executing core programs and services.

We strongly urge you to vote no on House Bill 2188.