



City of Lawrence

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March 2, 2016

Representative Mark Hutton
Chair, House Committee on Commerce, Labor & Economic Development
Room 346-S, Statehouse
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Hutton and House Committee on Commerce, Labor & Economic Development members,

On behalf of the City of Lawrence, I am writing to express opposition to HB 2665. Municipalities serve to protect and promote the health and welfare of their citizens. Local elected officials should have the right to establish programs, including rental licensing programs that promote the health and safety of the residents of their communities. In enforcing rental licensing provisions, government actors are obligated to adhere to federal and state constitutional requirements. This bill will not offer any greater protections that are not already afforded by the U.S. Constitution, and may, in fact, reduce life-safety protections for often-vulnerable tenants.

The City of Lawrence has a rental licensing program – a program we have had in place since 2002. We gain entry into dwellings by lawful means, and will continue to do so. Requiring consent or an administrative warrant to inspect an *exterior* of a dwelling from a public street or right-of-way (where there is no expectation of privacy) would be contrary to constitutional jurisprudence. Tenants, so long as they are in lawful possession of a premises should have the right to have their dwelling inspected for minimum life-safety standards. To deny a tenant the right to request and consent to an inspection because of pending but not concluded eviction proceedings is unfair.

This legislation is unnecessary and unneeded. We urge you to reject HB 2665.

Sincerely,

Mike Amyx
Mayor

