



City of Lawrence

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CITY COMMISSION

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Representative Mark Hutton
Chair, Committee on Commerce, Labor & Economic Development
Room 352-S, Statehouse
Topeka, Kansas 66612

March 8, 2016

Dear Representative Hutton and Committee on Commerce, Labor & Economic Development Members:

On behalf of the City of Lawrence, I want to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 366 concerning inclusionary zoning. As you know, that Bill precludes municipalities from enacting, maintaining, or enforcing any ordinance or resolution that would control the amount of rent charged or the purchase price agreed upon between the parties to the transaction for the lease or purchase of privately-owned residential or commercial property.

It is critical for the betterment of our community that safe and affordable housing remain available for working individuals and their families. The City of Lawrence recognizes that necessity and has a strong desire to address affordable housing needs locally. To help facilitate that laudable goal, our local governing body must have all tools available to it.

The Kansas Constitution has long provided cities with the authority to review their local needs and pass local ordinances to address their affairs. That home rule power is broad, with Article 12 Section 5 of the Kansas Constitution requiring it to be liberally construed so that cities are provided the "largest measure of self-government." Affordable housing is an area over which our home rule authority is triggered, and Senate Bill 366 is a direct infringement on that authority.

We respectfully encourage you to reject Senate Bill 366 and provide Kansas municipalities with the continued freedom to pursue affordable housing options for their citizens.

Sincerely,

Mike Amyx
Mayor

