



TO: House Committee on Insurance

FROM: Michael Koss, Legal Counsel

Date: March 20, 2015

RE: Written Testimony – Neutral on HB 2286

Thank you for allowing the League to submit neutral testimony on HB 2286. We support efforts to encourage transportation network companies to operate in Kansas. However, we have concerns that section 19 of the bill is an overly broad preemption of local regulations.

Transportation network companies are quickly becoming an essential part of metropolitan transportation systems. One company, Uber, has been operating in Wichita for over six months, and is widely popular. Kansas cities have not subjected these companies to taxicab or livery service regulations, allowing them to operate without being subject to local rules.

The League reached out to Uber last year to help design an ordinance that would exempt these companies from local taxicab and livery ordinances. That model ordinance is now ready, but again, no city has subjected a transportation network company to these rules. Some cities, like Lawrence, have reached out to local ridesharing companies to modify their rules so these companies can operate in compliance with their laws.

The League feels that section 19 should be replaced by a provision that simply states that transportation network companies are not subject to local taxicab and livery ordinances. This would allow TNC's to enter communities without fear of violating local rules, and allow communities to design regulations if problems arise with these companies.

Thank you for allowing the League to submit testimony on this important issue.