

To: House Local Government Committee

From: Cindy Green, Deputy Director

Date: February 16, 2016

RE: Opposition to House Bill 2558

Thank you for allowing me to offer testimony on behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities and their member cities in opposition to House Bill 2558.

HB 2558 would prohibit cities from enacting or administering ordinances that regulate campaign workers. We see this prohibition as an infringement upon our cities' Constitutional home rule right of local control and their ability to ensure that local issues and problems are handled at the level of government closest to the citizens that they represent.

Although, the first amendment provides for freedom of speech, the United States Supreme Court states that government generally may not impose content-based speech restrictions. An example, is last years court's ruling on Reed v. Town of Gilbert regarding content on signs. Cities are evaluating local ordinances to determine the impact of this ruling and HB 2558 appears to conflict with the ruling.

Based on the concerns listed above the League requests you not recommend HB 2558 for passage.