

To: Senate Ethics and Elections

From: Cindy Green, Deputy Director

Date: March 9, 2016

Re: Neutral Testimony to House Bill 2558

Thank you for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities to offer testimony concerning House Bill 2558. With respect to the issue of prohibiting cities from enacting or administering ordinances that regulate campaign workers, the League is neutral. This is in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling last year in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*. The case concerned ordinances in the town of Gilbert, Arizona, and how regulation of "speech" must occur in a "content neutral" manner.

Cities across the country continue to review how this ruling affects local ordinances governing speech, and we suspect several local ordinances will be altered in the coming years. Likewise, several state statutes may be changed in the future in light of *Reed*.

In broad terms, however, local communities seek to represent their citizens' concerns, and have been granted by a vote of the people a constitutional right to do just that. The League will vigorously defend cities' ability to exercise their Kansas Constitutional Home Rule authority.

The League appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 2558.