

Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

In Opposition to SB 76

Presented on behalf of the
Johnson County Board of County Commissioners

Ed Eilert, Chairman

February 1, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to SB 76, which restricts the authority of counties to license professionals that require certain training, education or fees to be licensed, and restricts fees for such licenses.

In this time of tight budgets and restrictions on sources and amounts of revenue for local government, it is imperative for counties to have opportunities to offset the cost of providing services to specific individuals or groups that place demands on county resources. The ability to charge fees for services related to specific occupations allows counties to reduce the general tax burden on property owners and shifts the cost of programs to those who benefit the most from those programs. Examples of such programs in Johnson County are child care licensing and contractor licensing. These highly successful programs will be negatively impacted by SB 76 and could lead to an increased risk to children by inferior child care providers and to the general public by unscrupulous or poorly trained contractors.

SB 76 may have unintended consequences by preventing counties from responding to local needs that are not addressed by the State. Local government must be able to act quickly in responding to local concerns, without unnecessary and overly broad statewide restrictions.

Programs adopted by local government using home rule authority are the closest to the people using the programs and local control of these services allows for greater customization and innovation, leading to improved efficiency in government.

The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners opposes the Bill in its current form and urges the Committee to not advance this bill.



Ed Eilert

Chairman

Board of County Commissioners

Johnson County, KS