

Date: February 20, 2017

To: Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

From: Eric B. Smith, Deputy General Counsel

Re: Support of SB 164, **WRITTEN ONLY**

On behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of SB 164.

SB 164 would allow a city to create a specific area within the borders of the city where the consumption of alcohol on public streets and sidewalks would be legal. The bill could help create a new opportunity for economic development and tourism in the state of Kansas.

Many laws were created based on the needs and desires of society at the time created. As times and society change, there is often a need to update laws to address these changes. SB 164 makes a change in the statutes controlling alcohol consumption in a manner to achieve flexibility at the local level. If a city has no desire to expand where alcohol can be consumed, they are not required to take any action.

The League supports statute changes to provide an opportunity for local businesses to expand tourism and economic development in Kansas and requests the committee move SB 164 out favorably to the full Senate.