

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: John Goodyear, Staff Attorney

Date: January 22, 2020

RE: Support for HB 2446

I want to thank Chairman Patton and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2446.

The League supports the passage of HB 2446 because, as written, it will serve to allow local law enforcement agencies to operate more efficiently and effectively. The bill was drafted primarily to solve a problem faced by many law enforcement entities within the state of Kansas: the storage of seized materials. Particularly, HB 2446 will help to solve the problems associated with the storage of dangerous drugs and stolen weapons.

The law currently allows for the destruction of hazardous materials once a representative sample has been taken. This is important because it allows for law enforcement agencies to dispose of seized contraband that may pose a risk to officers and communities rather than keeping them in storage. HB 2446 extends this ability to dangerous drugs. Rather than keep large quantities of the dangerous drug on hand, agencies will be able to take a sample of the seized material and destroy the rest. This eases the current storage burden felt by many law enforcement agencies in our state and eliminates the risk that the contraband will make it back into the community.

Additionally, HB 2446 will serve as a mechanism to ensure that the rightful owners of firearms are able to retrieve their property. The bill requires agencies to notify the rightful owner of stolen firearms, affording them the opportunity to retrieve their stolen property. The bill also allows the parent or guardian of a juvenile to retrieve a weapon seized from a juvenile. If the rightful owner of the firearm is prohibited by law, the bill makes it clear that the firearm may be disposed of in one of the methods laid out in statute after proper notice is given to the rightful owner.

The League supports the amendments that HB 2446 makes to current law and respectfully ask this Committee to pass the bill to the full House for consideration.