



**Written Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution 5007  
Ed Eilert, Chairman, Johnson County Board of County Commissioners  
House Committee on Local Government  
Wednesday, March 20, 2019**

Dear Chairman Thompson and Local Government Committee Members:

On behalf of the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners, I am writing to encourage your support of House Concurrent Resolution 5007 to submit to the qualified electors of the state the opportunity to vote on amending the constitution of the state of Kansas by allowing counties the power of home rule.

Johnson County's State Legislative Platform states "supports putting forth a constitutional amendment granting counties, as one of the cornerstones of Kansas government, the constitutional home rule authority currently enjoyed by cities." Currently, counties' home rule is authorized by state statute and counties are not designated by class. Cities' home rule is authorized by the state constitution and are designated by first, second and third class, which allows the opportunity to determine statutes by class. Counties are not entitled to this, but if approved the change in statute would allow classes.

County elected officials would be able to determine their local matters unless it is limited or prohibited by the legislature uniformly to all counties of the same class. Passage of this resolution would substantiate the belief that the government closest to the people would best serve the people.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration of House Concurrent Resolution 5007. Johnson County respectfully requests you pass this bill out of committee for further consideration by the House.