

To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: Deborah Barnes, Staff Attorney

Date: February 13, 2020

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 320

I want to thank Chairman Suellentrop and the members of the Committee for giving the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 320.

SB 320 would modify the statute (K.S.A. 65-6001) that allows for a court to order the testing of persons arrested and charged with a crime involving the transmission of body fluids from one person to another.

The change redefines “infectious disease” as used in this statute to include all diseases designated as infectious or contagious by the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Currently, AIDS, HIV and hepatitis B are the only infectious diseases that trigger the court’s ability to require testing of the person arrested.

This expanded definition will increase officer safety by allowing the court to test for all necessary diseases and inform an exposed officer about positive test results so the officer can obtain appropriate treatment quickly.

The League welcomes the updating of the definition of “infectious disease” and respectfully asks this Committee to pass SB 320 to the full Senate for consideration.