

To: House Local Government

From: Amanda L. Stanley, General Counsel

Date: February 17, 2021

RE: Proponent Testimony for HB 2238

We want to thank Chairman Thompson and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2238.

The League was approached by a member city in December of 2020 regarding K.S.A. 12-1252 which limits to \$500,000 the amount an individual donor can give to a city for the purpose of constructing a library. This limit was placed in statute in 1968. In 2021 dollars, \$500,000 would be the equivalent of \$3,841,799 in 1968.<sup>1</sup> In investigating why this limit exists in statute, we were unable to find a public purpose for the limitation. The statutory limitation on donations for libraries has never been updated or indexed.

If an individual donor believes strongly in investing in the community by making a donation to a city, there should not be an artificial limit in statute prohibiting that worthwhile endeavor.

For these reasons, the League strongly supports HB 2238 and asks this Committee recommend it be passed out favorably for passage to the full House for its consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dollartimes.com/inflation/inflation.php?amount=500000&year=1968>