



**Testimony to the House Taxation Committee
In Support of HB2445
Blair Tanner, Club Woodside
March 23, 2021**

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair Mason, Ranking Member Gartner, and members of the House Committee on Taxation. My name is Blair Tanner. I am here today to speak in SUPPORT of HB2445. I am the owner of Woodside in Westwood, KS.

Since Woodside is located in Johnson County, we must directly compete against the City owned health clubs in Overland Park, Olathe, Merriam and others. It hardly seems right that taxes are paid by Woodside and its members should go directly to construct and fund our competition. It seems each year that as our taxes increase, more communities are constructing tax funded facilities to compete with ours.

We recognize that not all taxes are fair. But, when possible, they should be. This is an opportunity to correct a major injustice. Asking our industry to fund our competition is not right and should not continue. HB2445 is a major step toward correcting a growing problem.

When Johnson County made me close during the Covid crisis last year we continued to accrue property tax liability. We had no income but were required to pay our taxes. When the County limited how many people could come to our club, we got no relief from the County. However, the government owned competition did not have this same issue. They closed and had no expenses.

Businesses understand risk. We know that we will have competition and we need to be better at what we do to survive. However, when your competition has the kinds of advantages these government owned facilities enjoy, it is more than normal risk. Woodside is happy to compete against other health clubs. When things are equal, we know we can come out on top. However, things are not equal with City owned facilities.

Woodside asks you to support HB2445. It is the right and fair thing to do.

Very truly yours,

By: _____
Blair Tanner, CEO