

To: Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

From: John Goodyear, General Counsel

Date: March 14, 2022

RE: Opponent Testimony on SB 531

We want to thank Chairman Hilderbrand and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony opposing SB 531.

The League does not have a position as to whether or not the state should enact a licensing program for massage therapists. Our opposition for this bill stems from the preemption in Sec. 13 of the bill. In the absence of state-wide regulation, a handful of cities have enacted local licensing requirements and regulations for massage therapists. They have done so because they see value in monitoring these businesses. For example, some cities have passed ordinances in this forum because they have found them helpful in preventing crimes like prostitution. If this bill passes, cities would be prohibited from passing or maintaining regulations that have been helpful in protecting their community.

When cities utilize their home rule authority to pass ordinances, they are developing local solutions for local problems. Cities should retain the ability to regulate these businesses as needed in their community.

The League is opposed to the preemptions in sec. 13 of SB 531 and would ask this Committee to remove it from the bill if you plan to move the legislation forward.