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**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
In Support of SB442
George McCrary, President
Kansas Health and Fitness Association
March 13, 2012**

Chairman Donovan and Senators of the Committee: My name is George McCrary. I am President of the Kansas Health and Fitness Association. I also am the owner of the Baldwin City Athletic Club in Baldwin City. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee and ask you to support SB442 as amended.

I have a different perspective than clubs from some of the larger communities. Baldwin City does not have tens of thousands of people to draw members from to join our fitness club. It is very difficult to justify constructing a new large facility to provide services. I know because I am weighing that decision today. I would like to provide additional programs, hire more employees and have a facility that can assist my community in striving for better health.

However, when all the costs are weighed it becomes hard to justify. As I try to determine a model that will make up for the thousands of new dollars in property taxes; it becomes difficult to justify a new club. I believe this dilemma is faced regularly by individuals who want to provide top notch facilities in smaller communities. The fixed cost of property tax weighs heavy over the decision making those of us in small communities.

I have been involved in the fitness business for many years. My goal is to provide a first class facility for which the citizens of Baldwin City and the surrounding area can be proud. It is my hope to increase usage, programs and memberships. This will add to the well being and wellness of the area. However, when I consider the tens of thousands of dollars I must make over the next several years just to pay property taxes it makes me question this dream.

It is my personal opinion that passage of SB442 will allow clubs to be started in communities that are currently underserved or have no service. I encourage you to support SB442. Thank you for your consideration.

Sn. Assmnt & Tax
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Attachment # 6