

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation  
In Support of SB72  
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HealthRidge Fitness Center  
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Chairman Donovan and Senators of the Committee: HealthRidge Fitness Center is located in Olathe. HealthRidge supports the passage of SB72. We believe this bill should be passed for several reasons.

First we believe the bill encourages the wellness of Kansans. Good health and exercise go hand in hand. While exercise may not guarantee good health; it certainly is a major component in it. Overweight and obesity are major factors in diabetes and heart disease. Several studies have shown that those who exercise regularly have a greater opportunity to fight being overweight. Lowering fixed costs to Kansas clubs will provide the opportunity for clubs to lower membership rates and provide additional services. Eliminating the sales tax on their dues will lower membership costs encouraging more participation. This will contribute to the fight on obesity.

HealthRidge also believes this is a fairness and equity issue. Within ten minutes of our club is a facility that is very similar to ours that pays no property tax. They collect membership dues just like we do, they provide fitness facilities like we do, and compete directly against us. The City of Olathe has also constructed a fitness facility that will be paid by tax dollars, compete directly against our facility, and pay no property taxes. If the names of these facilities were removed one could not tell any basic difference between our facility and these. This bill will correct this injustice that exists.

Finally this bill could actually result in additional revenues for the State of Kansas. Recent studies are showing that those involved in regular exercise spend less on medical services. Medical services are exempt from Kansas Sales Taxes. If Kansans spend less on Medical services they will have more disposable income that will generate additional sales tax for the State.

HealthRidge Fitness Center joins other Kansas clubs in encouraging the Committee to pass SB72. We believe that is a vote for fairness, a vote for healthiness and could ultimately result in added revenues for the State. Thank you for your consideration.