



P.O. Box 871, 705 High Street
Baldwin City, KS 66006-0871
(785) 594-3670
FAX (785) 594-2135

3/21/17

To: House Taxation Committee
From: Stevens M. Friend
Director, Baldwin City Recreation Commission

Re: HB 2384

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I have been served as a Director of a Recreation Commission for 38 years, first in Burlington and now in Baldwin City. I wanted to weigh in as being opposed to any changes to HB 2384 or any other attempt that would increase the fee for dues or memberships to a public recreation facility.

My first thought when I became aware of the possibility that taxes or fees would be assessed for dues or memberships to a public facility was what kind of precedent was being sent to could eventually trickle down to other services provided public recreation departments.

My second thought was if we look at recreation as an important aspect of a community, are we creating barriers for our residents to live a healthy lifestyle?

Finally, I think of the many individuals that I meet throughout the year that these potential fees or taxes would impact in a negative way. We try as an agency to keep our fees and charges as low as possible, because we know that there are a lot of people that are still struggling in this economy. Many of the more affluent members of our community have the means and opportunity to go to more upscale facilities and programs in nearby larger communities. We provide services to those that don't always have that choice.

I ask that you keep these things in mind if changes are proposed to HB 2384.

I thank you this opportunity to address this committee.

Stevens M. Friend, CPRP
Director, Baldwin City Recreation Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stevens M. Friend", is written over the typed name and title.