



HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

Affiliated With



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Chairman LaTurner, and Members of the Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 76. The Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City is proud to be the voice of the local housing industry. Comprising approximately 550 member companies, the HBA represents an industry that supports over 20,000 local jobs and that contributes more than \$1.5 billion to both short and long-term economic growth in the region.

The Home Builders Association greatly values our quality working relationships with local governments. We share the common goals of promoting new economic growth, homeownership, affordable housing, and strong communities.

Legislation that changes professional licensing fees would cause significant hardship for Johnson County and area home builders. The current contractor licensing program within Johnson County fosters portability and allows contractors to work across city limits with one license, while also providing residents with a qualified workforce from which to obtain services. Approximately 34% of all single-family permits in the state of Kansas in 2016 were pulled in Johnson County.

In addition to processing the license, the current \$225 fee also helps provide builders with free code credit education – classes that are required to maintain their licenses. Under this legislation, the county would be limited to charging \$25 per license, which would not be enough to maintain the contractor licensing department. It would also result in the loss of the county's ability to offer free builder education.

The reverting of licensing responsibility to individual cities would lead to inconsistent licensing practices and expensive code credit education. The HBA's builder members work hard to stay in compliance with local licensing regulations. It is vital to the success of their businesses to keep those regulations straightforward and consistent from city to city.

The HBA has a long-standing policy that licensure is best addressed at the local level. Our current relationship with county contractor licensing programs works to the benefit of both builders and local communities. We respectfully ask you keep this in mind when voting on Senate Bill 76.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Walkley
Home Builders Association of Greater Kansas City