

To: House Judiciary Committee

From: Amanda L. Stanley, General Counsel

Date: January 23, 2020

RE: Support for HB 2447

I want to thank Chairman Patton and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2447.

HB 2447 is being proposed by the Judicial Branch to increase the use of two-way electronic audio-visual communication in municipal court.

In talking with cities, multiple cities of all class sizes have already used their home rule authority to allow for the use of audio-visual means for appearance in municipal court under various situations. Other cities, who do not currently use audio-visual communication, support this as an option to help decrease the necessity of tying up officers with the transport of prisoners.

While we support this bill as a way of increasing the use of audio-visual communication across the state, because of the number of cities already doing this under their home rule authority, we would ask that before this bill is passed to the full House for its consideration, the bill be amended to make clear that this modification of the statute is to supplement the current use of audio-visual communication under local ordinance and not somehow imply that that the municipal ordinances currently in place are no longer valid.

This could be accomplished by adding the following language to HB 2447: All existing ordinances and charter ordinances relating to the use of audio-visual communication in municipal court shall remain in effect until amended or repealed by such city.