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To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee

From: Sage Pourmirza, Staff Attorney

Date: March 6, 2024

Re: Proponent Testimony on HB 2808

I want to thank Chairman Carpenter and members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2808.

Cities around the state employ incredibly hard working and motivated public transit employees to ensure the success of their public transit systems. Serving as a public transit employee is often a thankless job that presents its own challenges and dangers on a daily basis.

Given their efforts, we support HB 2808 and its commitment to providing extra protection for public transit employees. We hope that this legislation serves as a means to reduce violence against public transit employees, and to encourage others to seek employment in public transit.

HB 2808 is a great opportunity for the legislature to enshrine protections for public transit employees that they otherwise would be devoid of.

We are grateful to the Committee for allowing the League to submit testimony on this bill. We would ask that the Committee pass this bill out of committee favorably.