

To: House Committee on Financial Institutions and Pensions  
From: Brock Ingmire, Manager of Policy and Research  
Date: February 13, 2017  
Re: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2289

I want to thank Chairman Kelly and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities to offer written testimony in support HB 2289 on behalf of its member cities. Recognizing the potential concern for the broad language offered within this bill, the League supports the conceptual idea behind HB 2289 as it provides a more inclusive framework for what qualifies as participating service so as to not penalize participating employees for unexpected and extended interruptions in their day-to-day ability to attend and perform their work.

On occurrence, city employees can be caught in a bind where they are injured or for other legitimate reasons are unable to perform the duties of their work and are thus placed on temporary administrative leave or worker's compensation leave in excess of a quarter of the calendar year. When such situations arise for an extended time frame, employees of participating members can be left without the ability to accrue participating service credit at no fault of their own. While cities see such scenarios arise most frequently within their police, fire and emergency services departments, it is not limited to those departments and, on limited occasion, could potentially arise within other departments, such as public works.

The principle behind HB 2289 would ensure that employees are not penalized from accruing their participating service credit for unexpected and extended limited-term absences from their work. For these reasons, we respectfully request the Committee pass HB 2289 out of Committee with a recommendation for the full House for approval.