

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

From: John Goodyear, General Counsel

Date: January 31, 2022

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 367 – Written Only

I want to thank Chairwoman Warren and the members of the Committee for affording the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 367.

As written, this bill will allow local law enforcement agencies to operate more efficiently and effectively. Specifically, SB 367 will help address problems associated with the storage of dangerous drugs and stolen weapons.

Kansas law currently allows for the destruction of seized hazardous materials once a representative sample has been taken. SB 367 extends this ability to dangerous drugs. Rather than keep large quantities of the dangerous drugs on hand, agencies will be able to take a sample of the seized material and destroy the rest. This eases the current storage burden felt by many law enforcement agencies.

Additionally, SB 367 ensures that the rightful owners of firearms are better able to retrieve their property. The bill requires agencies to notify the rightful owner of stolen firearms, affording them the opportunity to retrieve their stolen property. The bill also allows the parent or guardian of a juvenile to retrieve a weapon seized from a juvenile. If the rightful owner of the firearm is prohibited by law from owning a firearm, the bill makes it clear that the firearm may be disposed of in one of the methods laid out in statute after proper notice is given to the rightful owner.

The League supports the amendments that SB 367 makes to current law and respectfully asks the Committee to pass the bill to the full Senate for consideration.