

February 12, 2023
Testimony to the House Committee on Taxation

NAME: **Leslie D. Mark**
TITLE: **Kansas Citizen / Voter**
EMAIL ADDRESS: **ldmark61@gmail.com**
BILL NUMBER: **HB2061, *Providing an income tax rate of 5%.***
PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: **Opponent**
ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: **Written Only**

Dear Chair Smith & Members of the Committee,

I write to voice opposition to HB 2061, providing an income tax rate of 5%. This regressive taxation idea has long been favored by libertarians and wealthy Kansans, favoring themselves over common citizens who make this state so great. The gist of HB 2061 is all too familiar here in Kansas — Sam Brownback’s aggressive successful push made Kansas a failed “experiment” in 2012.

In fact, Chair Smith, you address burdensome taxation right on your homepage: “*My philosophy is simple: provide the essential services the public demands at an **equally fair tax rate** to all.*” The fiscal note hints at the potential challenges HB 2061 could pose to middle- and low-income Kansans. But what is painfully clear is how significantly the state’s general fund would be reduced by this flat tax approach. How is that fair?

The Kansas Division of Budget has estimated this tax proposal will decrease state revenues by \$1.5 billion. This will put our state at risk of not meeting its obligations not our citizens’ needs. I remember what it did to our bond ratings and our infrastructure... and we are still feeling it in our public schools. How is that fair?

Kansas has a healthy budget today, thanks to a lot of hard work by Governor Kelly and you in the Legislature. We must stay focused on initiatives such as eliminating the food sales tax, providing a tax holiday for items related to education, fully funding special education, investing in mental health, and building more robust infrastructure.

Legislators did the fair and right thing in 2017 when they reversed the previous tax cuts that decimated our state budget. Please vote no on Bill HB 2061.

Leslie D. Mark
Mission Hills, HD 25 / Sen 7