



Written Testimony:

Submitted by Jennifer White, Executive Director, ICT SOS.

I am writing to submit proponent testimony for HB 2685.

This bill would offer sales tax relief for non-profit organizations in Kansas. This bill would greatly impact the spending power of nonprofits to do more good work with donor dollars.

ICT SOS is a nonprofit that provides trafficking prevention education, survivor therapy and advocacy and resources. The organization also provides "Fresh Start Bags" to survivors of trafficking, exploitation and abuse in our community. In 2023, we provided 320 bags to places like the Wichita Children's Home, Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County, hospitals and the police department. Each of these bags contains approximately \$215 worth of new clothing, hygiene, food gift cards and comfort items. They are provided in moments of crisis when victims first receive services from a helping professional. We expect to double that number in 2024. Sales tax on 400 bags would be approximately \$6,450. That same amount would fund 30 additional bags for survivors.

This is just one example of the positive change HB 2685 would bring. ICT SOS often provides direct assistance to survivors with things like household goods, clothing, and other needed items and services. We have seen an increase in the need for victim services and many nonprofits like ours are also facing potential cuts in grant funding as well as a downturn in donor support as the economy squeezes the pockets of individual and small business supporters. Eliminating sales tax on goods for our organizations means we can stretch those dollars further in support of our mission.

ICT SOS is far from the only organization that would benefit from HB 2685. And we, like our colleagues, appreciate the efficiency that would be brought with this bill. Once this bill has passed, individual nonprofits will spend less time coming before the tax committee advocating for individual exemptions, and more time serving the people of Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer White, Executive Director
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