

February 20, 2024

Jeanette Collier, Board Member
Kansas Association of Community Action Programs (KACAP)
Verbal and Written Proponent Testimony for HB 2687
House Committee on Taxation

Chairman Smith and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of HB 2687, which would establish a state child tax credit.

Kansas Association of Community Action Programs (KACAP) is an Association of the eight (8) Community Action Agencies in Kansas, which are private non-profit (7) or public organizations (1) that address the causes and conditions of poverty through a variety of programs and partnerships. The KACAP Association works to better focus available local, state, private and federal resources by assisting low-income individuals and families acquire useful skills and knowledge, gain access to new opportunities and achieve economic self-sufficiency. The mission of KACAP is to support both Community Action Agencies and human service networks in local, state, and national efforts to end poverty.

Of the estimated 93,000 Kansas children defined as living in poverty in 2023 (13.4% of children 0-17 years of age), Kansas Community Action Agencies have limited financial resources and can annually only assist approximately 6% (5,000 – 6,000) of the 93, 000 children living in families experiencing economic challenges. The child tax credit will provide a vital resource for families and will improve their ability to meet their basic needs. Low-income families are faced with housing, especially rental costs; food; transportation; childcare costs; and energy related financial burdens on a daily basis. These challenges have been exacerbated over the past two years by inflation which has resulted in more families facing housing instability and/or becoming homeless, increased food insecurity, increased family stress, and unmet health related needs. Community Action Agencies, other social services providers, nor the faith-based community can provide the needed funds to ameliorate these poverty related conditions.

It is in KACAP's professional opinion that a child tax credit will provide low-income children the opportunity for a healthier more socially connected life and will improve their opportunity for economic mobility over the course of their lifetime. The KACAP Association thanks you for your service and commitment to making Kansas the home where all families and children can thrive. Your support of the child tax credit will move the needle forward with resultant positive impacts on the personal well-being of all Kansas children, the Kansas economy, and the Kansas citizenry both now and in the future.