

**February 14, 2023**

**Testimony to the House Committee on Taxation**

**NAME:** Rev. Jeanne Koontz

**TITLE:** Kansas Citizen, Clergy

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**BILL NUMBER:** HB2061, Providing an income tax rate of 5%

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** Written

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to share my opposition to bill HB 2061. This tax proposal, although beneficial to wealthy Kansans and corporations, would hurt middle- and low-income Kansans and greatly reduce the state general fund.

We cannot afford another tax experiment in Kansas. 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 and the needs of its citizens. We've been through a tax experiment before and we know what it did to our bond rating, our infrastructure, and our kids in public schools.

Our state now has a healthy budget. If you really want to help Kansans, stay focused on initiatives such as:

- Eliminating the food sales tax
- Providing an education tax holiday
- Fully funding special education
- Investing in mental health
- Investing in infrastructure

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

Rev. Jeanne Koontz

Hutchinson