

February 14, 2023

Testimony to the House Committee on Taxation

NAME: Rev. Emily Spearman Cannon

TITLE: Lead Pastor at McPherson First United Methodist Church

EMAIL ADDRESS: emspearman@gmail.com

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,

As a concerned Kansas citizen—and as a Christian, a clergyperson who regularly works with low-income families, and a mother of a child in public school—I am writing to share my opposition to bill HB 2061. This proposal would hurt middle-class and low-income Kansans, and it would benefit large corporations at the expense of hard-working citizens.

The congregation I serve is the sister organization and administrative site of STEP MC (Steps To End Poverty, McPherson County.) I work alongside STEP MC staff and I volunteer with weekly STEP MC programming, and I have met dozens of hardworking men and women who are working their way out of poverty. Increasing their tax burden will be an impediment to their progress, and the corporate tax cut will shrink the state resources that all of us—regardless of income level—rely on. Mental health care and public education are already embarrassingly underfunded, and we can't afford to cripple essential programs in order to appease large corporations.

Kansas' current budget is very healthy and manageable, and there is no reason to raise taxes on the poor and cut taxes on the wealthy. I implore you to reject this bill, and focus on common-sense measures (like eliminating the food sales tax, investing in mental health, and fully funding special education) that will truly help Kansans and lead to long-term prosperity in our great state.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and please vote no on Bill HB 2061.

Rev. Emily Spearman Cannon

McPherson, KS