

February 14, 2023

Testimony to the House Committee on Taxation

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TITLE: Kansas Citizen

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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 only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing in opposition to bill HB 2061. I am a parent of three children, all of whom do or will attend our amazing public schools. I believe the Kansas citizens spoke in statewide general elections that a return to detrimental tax policy is NOT what we want for our state. We've been through tax experiments similar to HB 2061; our state should not again be faced with an unnecessary budget crisis. The Kansas Division of Budget has estimated this tax proposal will decrease state revenues by \$1.5 billion. With K-12 education accounting for much of the state general fund budget, there is no way around this impacting our public schools and the 90 percent of Kansas children who attend them, including my own and my entire community's. In addition, a tax like this is most beneficial to wealthy Kansans and corporations, and not the middle- and low-income Kansans. A policy like this is unnecessary and unfair, and has far-reaching negative consequences for our schools and other important state services, like public safety, infrastructure and health.

I am not opposed to smart and fair tax relief, such as an elimination of food sales tax, elimination of taxes on hygiene items and diapers, or help for seniors. I also believe that investing our budget surplus in items like fully funding special education, will benefit everyone in our state by strengthening instead of weakening our public schools, which serve as economic and community hubs throughout our entire state.

I, and voters across the state, have been clear about our past failed tax cuts. We do NOT want to return to these failed policies. The impact was crushing to our schools and local economies. Please vote no on Bill HB 2061.

Emily Meissen-Sebelius
Prairie Village