

## School Supplies Tax Holiday

Stacey Knoell, Executive Director of the Kansas African American Affairs Commission

Written testimony in support of Senate Bill \_\_\_ as introduced by Governor Laura Kelly – Tax holiday for purchase of school supplies

To the members of the Committee, thank you for having this hearing on such an important bill. The Kansas African American Affairs Commission supports Kansas adopting a sales tax holiday weekend for the purchase of school supplies.

We lend our voice in support of this version of the bill because of the provision that the holiday would begin this fall in August 2023 and last for 4 days and is set to include clothing and accessories, as well as school and art supplies, and computer software. Ultimately any version of tax relief of this kind will have a positive impact on our community.

Sales tax is a flat tax that disproportionately impacts people who earn less. Elimination of such a tax will keep more money in the pockets of those Kansans who need it most. While the impact might be felt most by those who earn less, all families would be impacted whether their students are in public, private, or homeschool settings. As anyone who has raised a child knows, much like food, school supplies are an ongoing purchase and any help in that area would be appreciated.

Missouri has a sales tax holiday for school supplies. A holiday on tax for school supplies will keep Kansas retailers competitive and help local economies. For these reasons, we support the adoption of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stacey Knoell  
Executive Director  
Kansas African American Affairs Commission