

February 15, 2023

Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

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BILL NUMBER: SB 169, Providing an income tax rate of 4.75% for individuals

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: written only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to share my opposition to bill SB 169. 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. For a similar bill in the House, bill HB 2061, the Kansas Division of Budget has estimated a decrease in state revenues of \$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 (Governor Brownback didn't get a second term) 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 SB 169.

LeAnna Herrmann, RN

Topeka