



JOHNSON COUNTY CHRISTMAS BUREAU

SUPPORT – ORAL & WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Nina Kimbrough

SB 210 – Tax Exempt Status for Johnson County Christmas Bureau

February 11, 2025

Madam Chair and Honorable Senators,

I am honored to speak on behalf of the more than 13,000 low-income residents of Johnson County who would benefit from the passage of SB 210. As you may know, the Johnson County Christmas Bureau (JCCB) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has served our community since 1960. This year marks our 65th Anniversary providing critical resources to those in need during the holiday and winter season. Each year the need has increased of our neighbors who live 150% and below the poverty level, our Holiday SHOP welcomes more than 3,500 low-income families, offering them a dignified, free shopping experience for essential items.

At JCCB, we distribute thousands of high-quality goods that families might otherwise go without, including groceries, personal care products, winter clothing, coats, books, toys, and holiday extras. In December alone, we provided 1,102 seniors living in nursing homes with care packages containing warm clothing, blankets, personal care items, and a special gift. We serve veterans, foster families, single moms, senior citizens and over 7000 children and youth from 0-18 years of age. Even during challenging times in our 65-year history, we continued to ensure that necessities reached those who needed them most.

This work is made possible by a dedicated team of volunteers, 125 working year-round and an additional 3,000 during the holiday season. With just one full-time executive director and one part-time administrative assistant, we are able to keep administrative costs low and rely on the passion and generosity of our volunteers to sustain our mission. Our team leaders begin shopping for the next year's Holiday SHOP the day after Christmas, tirelessly working to provide for our neighbors in need.

The passage of SB 210 is crucial to our ability to keep up with rising costs without compromising the quality or quantity of the items we provide. Securing tax-exempt status would have a significant financial impact on JCCB. In 2024 alone, we spent approximately \$260,000 on goods, meaning this exemption could save us nearly \$17,000—funds that could be redirected toward serving even more families in need.

The stress of poverty affects children's education, health, and overall well-being. By alleviating financial burdens during the holiday season, JCCB helps families focus on essentials like rent, medical expenses, and utilities—while still providing their children with warmth, joy, and dignity.

Providing Warmth and Support since 1960

PO Box 14786 • Shawnee Mission, KS 66285-4786 • 913-341-4342 • admin@jccb.org

www.jccb.org



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The impact of JCCB is best expressed by those we serve. One recipient shared:

"I can't begin to express what JCCB has meant to my family. As a single mother of three, I constantly worry about how to provide for my kids, especially during the holidays. When I walked into the Holiday SHOP, I was overwhelmed with gratitude. I was able to pick out warm coats, hats/gloves and clothing, groceries, books, and even special toys for each of my children—things I never thought I'd be able to give them. The look on their faces Christmas morning was something I will never forget. JCCB gave us more than just gifts; they gave us hope and joy during a difficult time."

Another family wrote:

"My husband and I both work full-time, but with the rising cost of living, making ends meet has been harder than ever, especially with our large family. We were struggling just to keep food on the table, let alone provide holiday gifts for our four kids, 2 biological and 2 adopted special needs children. JCCB was a blessing beyond words. The groceries, warm clothing, and gifts we received lifted such a huge burden off our shoulders. For the first time in years, we were able to enjoy the holidays without worrying about how we would afford it. We are forever grateful for the kindness and generosity of JCCB and its volunteers."

JCCB has been a pillar of support in Johnson County for more than six decades, and with your help, we will continue to provide warmth, sustenance, and hope to our low-income neighbors for years to come. I welcome any questions or comments you may have and can be reached at **director@jccb.org**.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of SB 210.

Sincerely,

Nina Kimbrough
Executive Director

A note of appreciation from your neighbors:

"We do really appreciate everything we received. May God bless you all...the people who volunteer and those who donate too. My family and I are very thankful!"

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