



Written Testimony in Support of SB179

March 3, 2025

Chair Tyson, Vice Chair Peck, Ranking Minority Member Corson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of SB179, which would establish a state child tax credit (CTC) in Kansas. My name is Dr. Dena Hubbard. I am a board-certified pediatrician and neonatologist and the chair of the Public Policy Committee of the Kansas Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics. KAAP represents more than 400 primary care pediatricians, pediatric subspecialists, pediatric surgery subspecialists, and pediatric residents dedicated to ensuring all Kansas children grow up safe, healthy, and strong.

The need for a state CTC has never been more urgent. All Kansas families are experiencing financial strain due to rising costs of basic necessities, and families of limited income face the most significant challenges. State CTCs are among the most effective ways to provide direct and meaningful relief to Kansas families. Research shows that federal CTC payments in 2021 lifted 2.9 million children out of poverty. Over one-third (35%) of Kansas children live in households earning below 200% of the federal poverty level. For these families, this tax credit would provide essential financial relief in ways that best meet their children's needs, whether purchasing groceries, paying for childcare, covering medical expenses, or securing stable housing.

The benefits of implementing a CTC go beyond economic support; a state CTC can improve child health outcomes by reducing food insecurity, increasing access to healthcare, and easing financial stress on parents, which benefits both mental and physical well-being. Investing in family economic security also contributes to a stronger, healthier, and better-educated workforce, ultimately boosting Kansas's economic prosperity. A state CTC modeled after the federal program and those in 14 other states and D.C. would make Kansas more competitive in attracting and retaining young families and skilled workers. The economic impact of these tax credits would far exceed their initial cost, as families would spend the additional funds in their communities, driving local business growth and job creation.

The data is clear. A state child tax credit is a proven tool to combat poverty, improve child health outcomes, and strengthen the economy. By passing SB179, lawmakers have an opportunity to provide meaningful, targeted relief to families, ensuring that no child in Kansas goes without the necessities they need to grow and thrive. I urge this committee to prioritize Kansas families by supporting SB 179. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am available for any questions and can be reached at dkhubbard@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Dena Hubbard, MD, FAAP
Chair, Public Policy Committee