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February 13, 2023

Paula Neth, President & CEO
The Family Conservancy
Written-Only testimony in opposition to House Bill 2061
House Committee on Taxation

Dear Members of the Taxation Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2061 on behalf of The Family Conservancy (TFC). My name is Paula Neth, President and CEO of TFC. We help children take advantage of the most important period of human development by improving early learning environments, building resilience and empowering families.

The proposed tax structure in HB 2061 will have a detrimental impact on children and families. It will cost Kansans an estimated \$1.5 billion each year, which as we recently experienced, can result in cuts to important programs and services that provide building blocks to our most vulnerable neighbors.

The families we serve are often worried about putting food on their tables and building a better future for their children. Many of those who would benefit most from HB 2061 don't experience the same struggle to make ends meet on a daily basis.

The clients and families we serve would be negatively impacted by these sweeping changes, as benefits they rely on – such as child care subsidy, food assistance, and public education; just to name a few – could be at stake. This flat tax will decrease tax revenue while giving away large tax cuts to high-income Kansans, at the detriment of programs which benefit the most vulnerable.

We need a tax system that promotes economic growth, and generates adequate funding for programs that strengthen communities. With the largest surplus in state history, it's time for bold investments that provide opportunity for all Kansans.

We ask that you oppose HB 2061 and consider the collateral damage a flat tax will create. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I would be glad to engage in dialog around this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Neth".

Paula Neth
President and CEO
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Helping Children. Strengthening Families.

