



Written Testimony in Favor of SB 4

Presented to the Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee

by Tim McKee, CEO

Olathe Chamber of Commerce

January 19, 2023

Chairman Tyson and Honorable Committee Members,

The Olathe Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber in Johnson County and the second largest chamber in the Kansas City area. Comprised of 1,300 members and growing, it was the first chamber in the state to receive 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – a designation obtained by less than 1 percent of the nation's chambers. Its mission is to be the voice of business that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments in support for SB 4, which would provide a sales tax exemption for construction or repair of housing by the Kansas state school for the blind and the Kansas state school for the deaf. Providing a sales tax exemption for these institutions will allow the schools to leverage their resources and utilize them fully for investment in campus housing.

The Kansas School for the Deaf has been located in Olathe since 1866 and is a historically important part of our Olathe business landscape and community. The Kansas School for the Deaf is also a significant stakeholder in Downtown Olathe with over 250,000-square feet situated on more than 10 acres. This proposed sales tax exemption will incentivize investment in student housing and improve the educational experience for the students.

The Kansas School for the Deaf has been an investor and active participant in the Olathe Chamber of Commerce for many decades. It is with great pleasure I submit these comments in support of the passage of SB 4, which will assist the School in its quest to provide improved housing for its students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim McKee, CEO, Olathe Chamber of Commerce