



March 4, 2015

### **Testimony in Opposition of HB 2307**

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity, thank you for this opportunity to voice our opposition to HB 2307. This bill would slow the progress that Kansas has made toward reducing the income tax burden on Kansas families and businesses.

The income tax reductions were originally proposed in the Kansas Senate. In 2012, the Kansas Senate voted 29-11 in favor of reducing the income tax. The bill went to the Kansas House for passage on a 64-59 vote and was signed by the Governor.

On March 19<sup>th</sup> of last year an amendment was offered in the Kansas House to reverse the tax cuts. The measure did not receive single vote from any Representative from either party.

Since passage, a large portion of the media coverage surrounding the income tax reductions has centered on state revenue, not Kansas families.

Since the new tax code went into effect 26 months ago, there has been a tremendous positive impact on Kansas families. According to the Kansas Department of Revenue, the average Kansas household will save \$446 in Kansas income taxes for 2014.

Kansas has added more than 30,000 jobs since the tax cuts took effect, according to U.S. Department of Labor Statistics data. During the same time period, Nebraska added only 3600 new jobs and Oklahoma added only 11,000. Unemployment in Kansas is at 4.2% full percentage point lower than Missouri.

The full effects of the reduction of Kansas income tax rates will take more than 26 months to be fully realized. The income tax cuts are benefitting Kansas families and businesses, but in order for this to truly be a success, Kansas leaders must continue the progress made by the 2012 tax reform package.

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