



Oral neutral testimony on SB 169,
providing an income tax rate of 4.75% for individuals.
Before the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

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Chair, Members of the Committee:

KASB generally stays neutral on tax proposals that do not directly affect K-12 funding, so we are providing neutral testimony on SB 169. Our concerns about this bill are that it could have an indirect, negative impact on the future of the school finance plan approved by the Legislature, Governor and Kansas Supreme Court that aims to provide suitable school finance including the approved inflationary adjustments.

Our Kansas school leaders are extremely appreciative of the funding increases from the Gannon settlement.

We believe that investment has helped produce impressive results for Kansas students, from record graduation rates overall and across all subgroups, to increasing numbers of students going on to post-secondary success. There are certainly areas that need improvement — just as there are in every endeavor — but Kansas public schools are on the right track in making sure more and more of our students receive the skills they need to lead successful lives. And these gains have been made during the worst disruption of education in 100 years.

Now and in the future, schools and other public services will need increased funding to compensate for rising costs and the ability for districts to pay suitable wages to recruit and retain highly qualified staff to promote student success. The fiscal note on this bill is substantial, as it is for other tax proposals in the Legislature. Because of this we urge caution to ensure we are not setting up future Legislatures for failure and that any tax proposals focus on helping those Kansas families who are living paycheck to paycheck.

Thank you.

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.

Kansas Association of School Boards

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