



Written Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

in opposition to

Senate Bill 169 – Providing an income tax rate of 4.75% for individuals

by

Judith Deedy, Executive Director **Game On for Kansas Schools**

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Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

[Game On for Kansas Schools](#) is a nonpartisan grassroots effort among Kansans who share a belief in high-quality public education as a right of all Kansas students. We advocate for Kansas public schools to ensure our teachers, principals, superintendents, and school board members have the resources necessary to deliver quality education to all Kansas students. We inform communities across the state about issues and legislation affecting their students, and our membership extends statewide.

We oppose SB 169 because it is too expensive. At the time of this drafting, a fiscal note has not yet been made available, but it will be significant. As a grassroots public education advocacy group we are painfully aware of how tax policy affects public education funding. Kansans like tax cuts, but not to the extent that they hinder the state's ability to pay for essential services, including public education. During the Brownback era, we saw class size increases, cuts to staffing, cuts to programs, and cuts to supply budgets. We saw some schools go to 4-day weeks. We saw impacts on our children's learning and on our teachers' lives. Eventually, the legislators who passed those tax cuts were ousted, but not before the damage was done. We urge this legislature not to take us back to those times.

Additionally, we remind the committee that the Kansas courts did not find a lack of state funding due to tax cuts to be a compelling defense in the Gannon litigation. We urge the committee members to protect the education of Kansas children and oppose the passage of SB 169.