

February 15, 2023
Testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

NAME: Sara Askew

TITLE: Kansas Citizen

EMAIL ADDRESS: sarabrooke@gmail.com

BILL NUMBER: SB 169, Providing an income tax rate of 4.75% for individuals

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Opponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: written only

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

I am writing to share my opposition to bill SB 169. This tax proposal benefits wealthy Kansans and corporations but would hurt middle- and low-income Kansans. In addition to the harm it would do, it would also reduce the state fund.

Brownback proved these tax experiments do not work. The Kansas Division of Budget has estimated this tax proposal will decrease state revenues by \$1.5 billion. This will put our state at risk of not meeting its obligations and the needs of its citizens. We've done this before. We know what it did to our bond rating, our infrastructure, and our kids in public schools.

Our budget is healthy right now. If you want to improve the lives of all Kansans, consider eliminating the food sales tax. When special education is not fully funded, now is not the time to reduce that fund further. Investments that would benefit all Kansans, especially those who need it most, would be those in mental health and infrastructure.

Legislators did the right thing in 2017 when they reversed the previous tax cuts that decimated our state budget. Please vote no on Bill SB 169.

Sara Askew
Wichita