

February 12, 2023

Testimony to the Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee

NAME: **Leslie D. Mark**

TITLE: **Kansas Citizen / Voter**

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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 Tyson & Members of the Committee,

I write to voice opposition to SB 169, providing an income tax rate of 4.75% for individual tax payers. This regressive taxation idea has long been favored by libertarians and wealthy Kansans, placing themselves over common citizens who make this state so great. The gist of SB 169 is all too familiar here in Kansas — Sam Brownback's aggressive successful push made Kansas a failed "experiment" in 2012.

The fiscal note hints at the potential challenges SB 169 could pose to middle- and low-income Kansans. But what is painfully clear is how significantly the wealthiest in the state would be freed from their equal obligation and how the state's general fund would be reduced. How is that fair?

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 not our citizens' needs. I remember what it did to our bond ratings and our infrastructure... and we are still feeling it in our public schools.

Kansas has a healthy budget today, thanks to a lot of hard work by Governor Kelly and you in the Legislature. We must stay focused on initiatives such as eliminating the food sales tax, providing a tax holiday for items related to education, fully funding special education, investing in mental health, and building more robust infrastructure.

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

Leslie D. Mark

Mission Hills, HD 25 / Sen 7