



February 3, 2025

Members of the House Committee on Taxation
Kansas State Capitol
Room 346-S
Topeka, Kansas

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Endow Kansas legislation that would provide state tax credits to individuals and businesses that contribute to endowed unrestricted funds at community foundations. This initiative represents a powerful investment in our local communities, ensuring long-term sustainability and responsive grantmaking to address pressing needs and opportunities as they arise.

Community foundations play a crucial role in strengthening our cities and towns by providing essential funding to nonprofit organizations, supporting local initiatives, and responding to emergent challenges. Endowed unrestricted funds are particularly valuable because they allow community foundations the flexibility to meet ever-changing needs, from disaster relief to economic development and education.

Hutchinson Community Foundation set a bold goal to build the Fund for Reno County Endowment, an unrestricted grantmaking fund, to \$20 million by 2030. The fund currently holds over \$12 million in assets. By offering state tax credits to donors who contribute to the Fund for Reno County Endowment, Endow Kansas would incentivize more giving, help us reach our goal, and bolster grantmaking power for Reno County communities. That possibility multiplied across all Kansas community foundations would ultimately benefit the entire state and reduce the burdens of government at the state and local levels.

Furthermore, this legislation would encourage strategic and sustainable charitable giving, ensuring that resources are available for generations to come. It would also foster stronger partnerships between the public and private sectors, reinforcing the idea that local communities are best positioned to determine and address their most pressing challenges.

I urge you to support this important legislation and advocate for its passage. By doing so, you will help ensure that Kansas community foundations continue to serve as pillars of support, innovation, and resilience for our residents and local organizations. Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your leadership in advancing policies that strengthen our communities and foster long-term prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Aubrey Abbott Patterson".

Aubrey Abbott Patterson
President & CEO