



Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of [Senate Bill 99](#), a much-needed step toward increasing efficiency and reducing the excessive burden of government spending on Kansas taxpayers. The Kansas Policy Institute supports this measure as it will help streamline government operations, curb unnecessary employment growth in the public sector, and align state spending with the needs of taxpayers rather than the growth of bureaucracy.

The Growing Imbalance in Kansas Government Employment

Kansas' [labor market data](#) reveals a concerning trend: government employment outpaced private sector job growth in December 2024. For 2024, Kansas added 5,100 government jobs, accounting for 28% of all new jobs, compared to 13,300 private sector jobs. However, in December, government employment grew by 700 jobs, exceeding the private sector's growth by 500 jobs.

While some government jobs are necessary, continued expansion without accountability leads to excessive spending and inefficiency. The government should serve the people, not become an economic sector of its own.

How Would SB 99 Help?

SB 99 will help reverse this trend by reducing redundant or non-essential government positions, ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used effectively. Under SB 99, state agencies must identify and certify all full-time positions funded by the state general fund that have been vacant for more than 180 days as of June 30, 2025. The Secretary of Administration will permanently eliminate these positions on July 1, 2025.

Eliminating Wasteful Spending Through Smarter Budgeting

One of this Committee's fundamental responsibilities is to ensure that taxpayer funds are spent purposefully and efficiently. Kansas already has [performance-based budgeting laws](#), yet they are not fully utilized to eliminate inefficiencies. SB 99 provides an opportunity to reinforce these budgeting principles by requiring agencies to justify their employment levels based on actual need and effectiveness rather than historical precedent or bureaucratic inertia.

Additionally, independent efficiency audits should be conducted to identify wasteful spending, duplicative programs, and outdated processes that increase costs without delivering measurable public benefit. Other states have successfully used zero-based budgeting—requiring agencies to justify every dollar spent—to eliminate unnecessary expenditures and ensure responsible fiscal management.

By implementing these practices alongside SB 99, the Legislature can help ensure that Kansas taxpayers fund essential services, not bloated bureaucracies.

A Path Toward Fiscal Responsibility

Kansas taxpayers deserve a government that operates efficiently, prioritizes essential services, and controls costs. This bill takes an important step in that direction by reducing unnecessary government employment and helping to restrain long-term spending growth.

By supporting SB 99 and integrating [additional efficiency measures](#) such as performance-based budgeting, independent audits, and responsible hiring practices, this Committee can play a key role in creating a smaller, more effective, and more accountable government for the people it serves.

The Kansas Policy Institute urges this Committee to approve SB 99 and continue working toward responsible budgeting that prioritizes taxpayer value over bureaucratic expansion. Thank you for your time and consideration.