



**Assessment and Taxation
Testimony on Senate Bill 445**

March 14, 2012

I appreciate the opportunity to be able to submit testimony in opposition to SB 445. Specifically we oppose the portion of this tax proposal that deals with reducing the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low income Kansans.

The Children's Alliance is the association of private child welfare agencies in Kansas. Our members provide services to children and families. Many, if not the majority, of families served by our member agencies qualify for the EITC. The goal of the child welfare system is to keep families together when possible, and for those children who must be removed from their homes the goal remains family reunification. In cases when that is not possible, placement with family members or adoption becomes the plan for the child. The majority of the children served by the child welfare system in Kansas will be successfully reunited with their families.

To reduce the financial benefit provided to low income families who are already addressing many other challenges is likely to make family reunification even more difficult. The EITC provides many benefits to families including assisting them with moving from welfare to work. From our vantage point, it appears that reducing the EITC will make keeping families together all the more difficult. I ask this committee to consider maintaining the EITC.

Again, I want to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of continuing the EITC.

Bruce Linhos
Executive Director
Children's Alliance of Kansas

Sn. Assmnt & Tax
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Attachment # 7