



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF KANSAS

Testimony of the League of Women Voters of Kansas

House Committee on Taxation

HB 2444 Related to Taxation

March 15, 2016

The League of Women Voters of Kansas (LWVK) supports a broad-based state tax system that has diverse sources of revenue and that is equitable, adequate, and effectively and economically administered. League member study and consensus reaffirms the necessity of the "three legged stool" tax design which includes income, sales and property taxes as the basis for funding state government services.

1. **We support the reinstatement of the non-wage state income tax, especially** on the top 3% of businesses which fall under the definition of Limited Liability Corporations, Subchapter S or Partnership corporations.
2. **We plead for the Kansans who do not have enough to eat** and are now paying one of the highest sales taxes for food in the nation. According to the Kansas Health Institute, one out of every six Kansas households (16.5 percent) was food-insecure at some time during 2013. That means that more than 183,000 households, representing approximately 450,000 Kansans, did not have reliable access to enough food. Nearly half of households headed by single women with children faced food insecurity.

The costs and consequences of food insecurity are substantial. Numerous research studies have shown that food insecurity is associated with declines in health status among adults. Children who grow up in food insecure homes are at increased risk for poor health, are more likely to perform poorly in school, and more likely to exhibit behavioral problems.

The League of Women Voters of Kansas requests that legislation reinstating the state income tax to the largest earners who were or have become exempted corporations be adopted. We urge protection of our poor with the elimination or at least reduction of the food sales tax now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marge Ahrens

Carole Neal

Co-Presidents

League of Women Voters of Kansas