



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY®**

Testimony on HB 2740

March 5, 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Jeff Glendening and I am the Kansas State Director of Americans for Prosperity, the state's largest grassroots advocate for free markets. On behalf of over 50,000 AFP activists in Kansas, I urge you to oppose House Bill 2740, which would increase taxes on the hard-working people of Kansas.

Only a few years ago, Kansas was moving in the right direction when it came to our tax policy. This legislature was dedicated towards lowering the tax burden on businesses and individuals to increase economic growth and allow people to keep more money in their pockets.

Sadly, this bill represents a push in the other direction.

This legislation would dramatically increase the rate of property taxes in the state of Kansas from 20 mills today to 38.43 mills by the 2020-2021 school year. This increase would mean millions out of the pockets of hard working Kansas families, right into the pockets of a government that has shown little interest in restraining spending.

Given that Kansas already has the 15th highest property taxes in the nation, increasing this tax would drastically reduce the state's competitiveness.

Rather than again raising taxes, this legislature should be looking at ways to reduce spending so such tax increases need no longer be considered. Kansas has continued to spend more and more money despite having little to show for their additional investments. In the same year Kansas passed its initial tax cut, the state increased spending by over \$430 million. If the state had simply has its spending keep pace with inflation, the state would be spending more than a billion less than it is today.

Given that the Kansas school system is sitting on cash reserves over \$900 million, this kind of dramatic property tax increase simply isn't necessary.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote against House Bill 2740 and instead work to restrain spending in the state of Kansas.

Sincerely,
Jeff Glendening
Kansas State Director, Americans for Prosperity