

TESTIMONY OF CHRISTINA OSTMEYER
SUMMER MEALS ADVOCATE
KANSAS APPLESEED CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE
BEFORE THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE



KANSAS APPLESEED
Justice for all.

IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 188
FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Chairman Tyson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christina Ostmeyer; I am the summer meals advocate at the Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that advocates for systemic solutions to the problems facing disadvantaged Kansans. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 188.

Kansas Appleseed supports Senate Bill 188. It is vital to the future prosperity of Kansas that we end the current tax plan and implement a long-term solution to our financial crisis. Since its implementation, the current tax plan has caused Kansas's credit rating to plummet to negative from stable, with S&P Global creditors citing that harmful, one-time "fixes" that the state has taken to fill the holes in the Kansas budget are to blame. As we face a projected shortfall of \$1.1 billion through June 2019, something must be done.

The budget crisis caused by Kansas's failing tax plan has resulted in gutting funds from our schools, roads, and the Kansas Public Employee Retirement System. When these funds are reduced, the health, security, safety and success of Kansas families are put at risk. In addition, Kansas's most vulnerable citizens disproportionately suffer the negative effects of the current regressive tax policy. Short-term ideas do not fix the state's problem, and proposals such as securitizing the Children's Initiative Fund would eliminate essential children's programs and result in further future debt for Kansas. By ending the "March to Zero," eliminating the LLC loophole and adjusting income tax brackets, Senate Bill 188 will restore a fair tax policy.

Kansas cannot continue to be held back by its failing tax plan, and millions of hard-working Kansans will benefit from Senate Bill 188's reforms. For the above reasons, we strongly encourage the committee to support Senate Bill 188.

Thank you,
Christina Ostmeyer
Summer Meals Advocate
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Inc.

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