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To: Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Date: March 14th, 2017
Subject: Support for SB 146; \$20,000 exemption.

Honorable Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation:

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to provide some written comments in support of SB 146, specifically the \$20,000 exemption found in K.S.A. 79-201x.

KAR represents over 8,500 members involved in both residential and commercial real estate and has advocated on behalf of the state's property owners for over 95 years. REALTORS® serve an important role in the state's economy and are dedicated to working with our elected officials to create better communities by supporting economic development, a high quality of life and providing affordable housing opportunities while protecting the rights of private property owners.

REALTORS® are involved in recruiting new residents to our local communities on a daily basis and realize the importance of quality public schools in building a high quality of life for Kansas residents. We also believe in the importance of a low tax burden on Kansas businesses and families that will help keep our state competitive in the search for new economic development and job growth opportunities.

While continuing the state mandated mill levy rate of 20 mills for schools, SB 146 also continues an exemption of \$20,000 of assessed valuation on residential property. K.S.A. 79-201x provides property tax relief for Kansas homeowners and, as such, KAR supports this exemption and would respectfully ask that the current K.S.A. 79-201x exemption be retained in this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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