

Cecilia Pruitt, 21800 Parallel Rd, Tonganoxie, KS. Thank you for opportunity to speak in favor of SB 91

KS is ranked as the 15th worst state in our nation for property taxes in 2018 ([www.cheatsheet.com](http://www.cheatsheet.com))

Retirees on a fixed income are easily forced to move and sell their family home or farm, this happened to my father after my mother died.

Why should Kansas want to keep their retirees? Let me tell you about my community and the contribution retirees make.

### **The Good Shepard Thrift Shop and Food Bank , the only local assistance program for people in need.**

Provides clothing, food, assistance with utility bills and rent for people in need

Provides gift cards for meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas for people in need

Provides gifts at Christmas time for people in need

Retirees take dolls home, clean them, fix their hair and sew new clothes for them for gifting at Christmas (also for sale at reduced price)

Retirees make repairs to bicycles, appliances etc. to be sold to help support the Thrift Store.

Monetary assistance for veterans given at an increased allotment.

Handmade scarfs and hats for veterans sent to Leavenworth VA each year

Collect shower shoes, tennis shoes and other amenities for the Leavenworth VA center

Provided 4 scholarships for graduating seniors this past May

95% of staffing provided by retirees without charge. Last 5% comes in the form of occasional assistance from high school students as service

projects or others on a Saturday

### **Local library**

Volunteer retirees shelve books, read to preschool children at story time, and staff the Chieftain Cafe. This is a local program that provides healthy snacks to children after school.

### **Historical Society**

Volunteers maintain buildings and grounds, prepare exhibits, and plan special events.

Volunteers provide our 3rd graders with a field trip providing education on one room schools, Kanza Indian culture, and other aspects of local history.

In addition they provide for a scholarship for a local high school senior each year.

The facilities are used as a home for the USD 464 High School Science camp.

You will not be surprised to learn that by far the majority of these volunteers are retirees.

On a personal note, myself and another retiree act as volunteer swim coaches on our local swim team each year.

### **Elementary School**

Our local elementary school has an entire volunteer center--primarily run by retired people.

This is just in my community, a few of the services provided by our local retirees, I am confident there are many other Kansas communities with the same loyal retiree volunteers as we have.

We need our retirees in Kansas for the valuable services they offer. I am here today to ask you to help make it possible for them to stay.