



KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

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Written Only Testimony – Opponent
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Senate Concurrent Resolution 1620
March 10, 2022

Chairperson Tyson, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SCR 1620.

Kansas NEA recognizes the relationship between public education, an informed public, and the efficacy of a representative democracy. This is one of Kansas NEA's core values.

Kansas NEA asserts that constitutions are critical parts of democracy and self-governance and the amendment of such documents should not be taken lightly. The Founders of Kansas set forth in Article-2, Section 13 the process of **Majority for passage of bills** that states: *A majority of the members then elected (or appointed) and qualified of each house, voting in the affirmative, shall be necessary to pass any bill.* This process was first adopted by state convention and ratified by territorial Kansans in 1859 and has remained the law of the land for almost 163 years. Adding a new section 14 to article 11 of the Kansas Constitution is a major change that will have a dramatic impact on the future of Kansas.

Set aside however, the argument given above.

Kansas NEA has been a leading champion in the ongoing push to ensure that public education in Kansas is funded adequately and equitably. Given this commitment, Kansas NEA is more concerned about the impact that SCR 1620 would have on Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution that sets forth the legislature's responsibility to suitably fund public education.

Students in schools across Kansas will learn in government, social studies, and economic classes that our state and national economies experience significant downturns and upswings on a regular basis. This dynamic of consistent fluctuation demonstrates a basic need for the legislature to have the flexibility to act, and react, appropriately without the same sort of gridlock that Americans have grown accustomed to seeing in Washington, DC.

Should Kansas face budgetary challenges in the future, an inability to make appropriate changes to tax policy could be extremely detrimental to the funding of public education.

Kansas NEA believes that SCR 1620 sets up a scenario that creates such a barrier.

We ask you to oppose this resolution.

Thank you for your time.