



**Testimony to Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Opponent Testimony on SCR1620
Thursday, March 10, 2022
The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce**

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber) opposes SC1620 that would propose a constitutional amendment to Kansas voters that would require a supermajority of both houses of the legislature to pass bills containing new or increased state taxes. The KC Chamber has had an established position of supporting fiscally responsibly policies to ensure robust and strong financial security moving forward for the state. By increasing the hurdles for the state legislature to raise necessary funds, it could prohibit the state from increasing revenues during necessary times.

The KC Chamber has concerns about many of the unintended consequences of proposals like this. Although the state is flush with cash currently, down the road, this may be a different story especially considering much of this money is one-time revenue. We have seen the unintended consequences of harmful fiscal policies result in decreased services, delayed and deferred road maintenance and a generally bleak outlook for the state's financial picture. The State Legislature has an important obligation to raise revenue for quality and sufficient state operation. By making the threshold two-thirds majority in both houses, the Chamber is concerned that the body will see increased gridlock during critical times.

The KC Chamber opposes constitutional and statutory limitations on state taxes and restrictions on government spending. Although the state coffers are flush with cash at the moment, with rising inflation and more uncertain economic conditions moving forward, the State Legislature should consider the unintended consequences of handcuffing future legislature to raise more revenues if it is ever needed. The KC Chamber opposes SC1620 and encourages the legislature to oppose this proposed constitutional amendment as well.

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