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Written Testimony – Proponent
House Committee on Taxation
House Bill 2687
February 20, 2024

Chairperson Smith, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2687.

Kansas NEA strongly supports local, state, and national tax reform. We believe that it should be done in a way that increases fairness without preventing the state from appropriately funding education or other public services. We support a distribution model of taxation that reflects the ability to pay as well as safeguarding family subsistence. The child tax credit provisions in HB 2687 are estimated to impact nearly 725,000 Kansas children. It is also estimated that the great majority of tax relief would benefit the bottom 80% of tax filers in Kansas. Kansas NEA believes that this level of impact signifies a step in the right direction.

KNEA also believes that stability in the home, school, and community positively affects the social/emotional, cognitive, and physical health of children. Childhood poverty can be a huge obstacle in achieving this stability. Child tax credits used in concert with other programs have been shown to lift struggling families out of the condition of economic insecurity, and lift children out of poverty. Doing so can prevent harmful economic, educational, health and mental health outcomes.

Additionally, child tax credits have been associated with better test scores, higher rates of high school graduation, post-secondary attendance, and more earning power as adults.

For these reasons and more, we ask that the committee approve HB 2687.

Thank You.