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Written Testimony – Opponent
House Committee on Taxation
SCR 1611
March 19, 2024

Chairperson Smith, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SCR 1611.

Kansas NEA is a member-driven organization that represents all 40,000 educators in the state of Kansas. We have nearly 22,000 members. The positions we advocate for have been proposed, debated, and adopted by several hundred members that were selected by their peers to attend our annual Representative Assembly.

Our resolutions on tax policy touch on fairness and feasibility. Kansas NEA believes that tax policy should be rational and fair. We believe that the state's strategy on tax policy should prevent excessive reliance on any single tax source. We further believe that Kansas tax policy should generate levels of revenue to fully finance quality public education and other public services.

Kansas NEA opposes changes in tax policy that would negatively impact the stability of state budgets in a way that would prevent constitutional funding of the public school system. SCR 1611 could have a negative impact on public schools by setting artificial caps on property values that are used in calculating the local option budget. SCR 1611 doesn't guarantee property tax relief and could have the effect of forcing some local entities to raise the mill levy to ensure status quo funding. Capping the evaluation rate of property could also lead policy makers to be forced to raise rates on other sources of revenue like sales or income tax.

After years of fiscal instability, Kansas is finally on solid financial ground. We believe that SCR 1611 could be a step in the wrong direction. We ask the legislature to not move in reverse.

We ask the committee to reject SCR 1611.

We thank you for your time.