



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

Timothy R. Graham
Director of Government Relations & Legislative Affairs
Oral Testimony – Neutral
House Committee on Taxation
House Bill 2844
March 20, 2024

Chairperson Smith, members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify neutrally to HB 2844.

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 the Kansas tax policy should generate levels of revenue to fully finance quality public education and other public services.

KNEA will leave it to the will of this committee and the legislature to assess the feasibility of the overall tax package in HB 2844. We will, however, offer a word of caution. We are not opposed to property tax relief, we are very concerned that future legislatures may not be dedicated to backfilling the revenue that would be lost by the reduction of the statewide mill levy from 20 mills to 18 mills.

Public education cannot afford the type of financial hit that would occur if future legislatures decided not to backfill these lost revenues. We encourage this committee to make it very clear that the legislative intent is that future legislatures should be committed to backfilling the revenues should the new standard be 18 mills.

Thank You your time.