

STATE OF KANSAS
SENATE CHAMBER

STATE CAPITOL RM 318-E
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-3245
dinah.sykes@senate.ks.gov



10227 THEDEN CIRCLE
LENEXA, KANSAS 66220
(913) 406-0053

DINAH H. SYKES
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

January 19, 2023
Proponent
ORAL In-Person Testimony

Chairwoman Tyson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of the proposed back-to-school sales tax holiday.

As a mother of two, I've gone on my fair share of back-to-school shopping trips, where my boys and I joined the sea of red carts at Target filled to the brim with notebooks, pencils, and packs of socks for the year ahead. Unfortunately, the thousands of dollars I spent on school supplies over my children's school years were often not spent in Kansas. I went to the Target on the Missouri side of State Line, where I could purchase these necessities tax-free during their annual back-to-school tax holiday.

Thirteen states have back-to-school tax holidays, and a similar policy in Kansas – that keeps us streamline compliant – just makes sense. It keeps more money in families' pockets ahead of the new school year, delivering tangible relief during this difficult economic time. It levels the playing field between Kansans that live on the border and those who can't drive multiple hours to take advantage of these savings. And it keeps Kansans' dollars where they belong: in Kansas.

I urge the committee to recommend this policy favorably for passage, and I look forward to answering your questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dinah H. Sykes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Senator Dinah Sykes