

GOOD MORNING:

MY NAME IS PAT DONAHUE. I AM A VOLUNTEER WITH THE NORTHEAST KANSAS AREA AGENCY ON AGING. I AM HERE TO SUPPORT SB 101 AND ITS COMPANION HB 2416. THESE PROPOSED TAX BILLS WOULD EXTEND SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS TO 8 OUT OF 11 AREA AGENCIES ON AGING. THREE AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ARE ALREADY TAX EXEMPT BECAUSE THEY OPERATE EXCLUSIVELY AS A UNIT OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN THE MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREAS THEY EXCLUSIVELY SERVE.

I AM A NATIVE KANSAN, A VIETNAM VETERAN, RETIRED LAWYER, HUSBAND AND GRANDFATHER. I AM 79 YEARS OLD. I LIVE IN LAWRENCE AND I HAVE AG LAND IN HARVEY COUNTY. I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH OLDER AMERICANS' ACT PROGRAMS FOR OVER 20 YEARS. I CAN REMEMBER THE DAYS BEFORE WE HAD OLDER AMERICANS ACT PROGRAMS [1965], MEDICARE/MEDICAID AND AREA AGENCIES ON AGING. I THOSE DAYS WE JUST KEPT OLDER FOLKS AT HOME OR PUT THEM IN NURSING HOMES UNTIL... I'M GLAD TO SAY WE ARE DOING BETTER NOW.

THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION CAME TO MY ATTENTION WHEN OUR AAA IN MANHATTAN BOUGHT A BUILDING- AN OLD NURSING HOME IN EMPORIA (MY HOME TOWN) AT A VERY ATTRACTIVE PRICE. WE DID THIS BECAUSE WE NEEDED THE KITCHEN FOR OUR MEALS PROGRAM. THE KITCHEN WAS GREAT BUT THE REST OF THE BUILDING NOT SO MUCH. AS WE STARTED FIGURING OUT THE REPAIRS AND UP-GRADES WE NEEDED THE COST STARTED ADDING UP. WE DECIDED TO DO A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN. THEN WE NOTICED THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO PAY SALES TAX ON THE REPAIRS AND UP-GRADES. AT 8.5% [EMPORIA] THIS THIS ADDS UP TO \$85,000 ON A MILLION DOLLARS. THAT WOULD BUY A LOT OF HOME DELIVERD MEALS.

TWO THINGS CONCERN ME THAT CAUSE ME TO SUPPORT SB 101/HB 2416.

1. THERE IS AN ISSUE OF TAX EQUITY. WHY DO THE RURAL AAA'S HAVE TO PAY SALES TAX WHEN THE THREE URBAN AREA AAA'S DON'T?
2. MOST OF OUR WORK OBO SENIORS IS FINANCED BY TAX DOLLARS WE RECEIVE IN THE FORM OF FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS. DOES IT MAKE SENSE FOR US TO PAY TAX ON THE MONEY WE SPEND FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES WHEN THAT MONEY WAS PROVIDED BY TAXES IN THE FIRST PLACE?

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND FOR YOUR SERVICE. I AM OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THE JOB OF REPRESENTING US CITIZENS A IS A LOT MORE THAN AN HONORARY DEGREE...AND THAT WE CITIZENS CAN BE DIFFICULT TO PLEASE AT TIMES. THANK YOU FOR DOING THIS JOB FOR US.

PAT DONAHUE