

## Written Testimony – SB 539

**NAME:** Connie Brown Collins

**TITLE:** Founder/Director, Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** conniejbrown53@gmail.com

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 539

**PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL:** Opponent

**ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY:** written, only

Dear Assessment and Taxation Committee Chair Tyson & Members of the Committee,

My name is Connie Brown Collins, Founder/Director of Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County. I am writing to voice my opposition to bill SB 539.

As you may know, the flat tax has already been rejected in the past two sessions and as recently as a week ago. The new version, SB 539, also does not provide adequate tax relief for low to middle income taxpayers. We therefore oppose efforts to abolish the existing progressive tax structure.

Further, this bill is being heard in committee on very short notice, leaving no real time to gauge its impacts. What we have determined about SB 539 so far:

- This bill significantly lessens the social security benefit. Gov Kelly's bills eliminate social security from state income taxes;
- SB 539 benefits higher income earners increasingly on a graduated scale over the next 5 years;
- It is less generous on the property tax exemption, including a reduction in the exemption to \$80,000 from \$100,000.

In closing, I reiterate opposition to SB 539 and ask that you provide additional time for constituents and voters to examine and analyze this bill.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Brown Collins  
Voter Rights Network of Wyandotte County  
Kansas City, KS