



KSFFA

PO Box 3866
Topeka, KS 66604

The Honorable Adam Smith
House Committee on Taxation
300 SW 10th, Room 185-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Subject: Proponent Testimony regarding HB 2685- Exemption of sales tax for charitable organizations.

Dear Chair Smith and distinguished committee members,

We write requesting to be considered for inclusion for an exemption from sales tax for the Kansas State Firefighters Association, Inc. The KSFFA was founded in 1887 to provide training essential to firefighters across Kansas, this is encompassing of both career and volunteer fire departments.

Most of the training consists of regional fire schools held each month in various locations across the state. The training includes hands-on training opportunities using special equipment like our live fire burn trailer and search and rescue/confined space training in our skills trailer. Additionally web-based training on emerging topics such as electric vehicle fires is also available. Additionally, the association offers a full range of other hands-on classes so firefighters can train to perform their job proficiently and professionally.

Annual expenditures of our association, which are currently subject to sales tax, typically range from \$150,000-180,000. We strive to diligently manage our finances to provide the best training possible, an exemption in sales tax would allow us to expand our training. The increased financial flexibility would in turn reach a larger number of firefighters in the state.

The Kansas State Firefighters Association is funded by annual membership dues from each department that is a member of the association, along with a distribution from the State Insurance Commissioner to provide the needed training.

We respectfully request that the Kansas State Firefighters Association be granted an exemption from sales tax. The exemption would allow us to further our mission of providing training to firefighters across the state.

Sincerely,

Shane Pearson
President
Kansas State Firefighters Association