



# SISTERS OF CHARITY OF LEAVENWORTH

## SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

Assessment and Taxation

March 14, 2012

Opposing SB 445

Sister Therese Bangert, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

**Many of you know that for over a decade I have put efforts into policies that assist low-income families. I believe that families are the cornerstone of our society. When policies assist parents in caring for their children all of society benefits – but most of all children benefit when parents are less stressed and can reasonably meet daily needs.**

So I come today opposing SB445 and its proposal to eliminate the refundable EITC and replace it with a Homestead Property Tax Refund. I don't disagree with the concept of assisting low-income homeowners. I do disagree that this assistance comes by eliminating tax policy that assists working parents – particularly those making \$12,000-\$35,000 and have two or three children.

Besides eliminating the EITC, SB445 also eliminates the Homestead refund for income-eligible renters.

If this committee is going to further consider this policy, I think that it would be important

- To have figures from the Department of Revenue that tell us how many households receiving the Homestead Refund also receive the EITC.
- To have a credible estimate of how many families who currently benefit from the refundable earned income credit own their homes.
- To know how many current Homestead Refund recipients are renters.

Legislative Post Audit's Feb. 2010 report showed that there were

- 78,601 filers for the Homestead Property Tax Refund receiving \$20,706,262.

The same report shows

- 197,810 filers for the EITC receiving \$62,368, 216.

I believe that these are two very distinct programs and it is no secret that I feel very strongly that the one that is most helpful to our Kansas families is the EITC. Please reject this bill and this policy.

**Thank you for hearing me again. Peace be with you!**