

Feb. 3, 2017  
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Dear Chairman Steven Johnson and the members of the House Committee on Taxation:

I am writing in support of Comprehensive Tax Reform (HB2237).

Existing tax laws in Kansas have decimated our budget for perhaps decades to come. My gravest concern is the impact that budget shortfall has had on public education, both K-12 and institutions of higher learning. Two immediate negative impacts are: 1.) teachers reportedly are leaving the state for positions elsewhere and 2.) per pupil funding has decreased \$600, while enrollment increases in many districts.

We have had some of the best schools in the nation, but that status is threatened. When schools suffer, so do property values, and businesses suffer from a less educated workforce. It's a slippery slope.

A more personal concern I have is the robbing of KDOT funds to plug deficits in other areas, even education. My husband is a road designer whose biggest client is KDOT – he has watched as more and more projects have been delayed time and again over the past few years. He has worked for the same company for 24 years, but worries daily that his job will not last until he retires. Again, Kansas has in the past been known for the quality of its roads, a reputation that is endangered.

Thank you for your consideration,

Pamela Wood

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