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May 8, 2017

The Honorable Steven Johnson
House Taxation Committee
Capitol Building, Room 346-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2424

Dear Chairman Johnson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Riley County Commissioners and the Human Resources Division of Riley County, we support the HB 2424 exemption from the tax lid which excludes:

"Increases in employer contributions for social security, workers compensation, unemployment insurance, health-care costs, employee benefit plans and employee retirement and pension programs",

Our support is based upon the following facts:

*Riley County employee health insurance costs, which are part of the State of Kansas Health Plan, have increased 6% from 2015-2016 and 7% from 2016-2017. We anticipate a cost increase of at least another 7% for 2018.

*KPERs requires a mandatory contribution from Riley County (including the Death and Disability Benefit) of 9.46% for 2017 and 9.39% for 2018

These mandatory employer costs are based upon actuarial calculations of usage and statutory requirements regarding Social Security, Worker's Compensation and Unemployment Insurance withholdings. Since these costs are not within Riley County control, it is appropriate for such costs to be excluded from the tax lid.

Riley County Personnel costs consume approximately 50% of our General Fund budget. The County's ability to provide a competitive level of wage and benefits for our valued staff is critical, if Riley County is to continue to provide a high level of "customer service" to our taxpayers.

This also leads to the recruitment and retention of employees; when the employee premium rate for their health insurance increases more than their wage, along with increase to the cost of living...the employee LOSES money to retain their employment.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on HB2424.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Volanti". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Cindy Volanti
Riley County Human Resource Manager