



Written Only Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
on
SB 376 - Increasing rates of tax of cigarettes and tobacco products; establishing the cigarette and tobacco products cessation fund.

by
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Madam Chairwoman, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today as a proponent on **SB 376** on behalf of the Kansas Association of School Boards. We support additional revenue for education and other state programs, which SB 376 would address.

KASB's position on revenue, adopted by the KASB Delegate Assembly in December, reads:

“The state should strive to achieve from the major revenue sources, sales, income and property taxes, a balanced and equitable mix of revenues that are suitable to support public services, including funding for quality education. Taxes should be broadly based to ensure all Kansans share fairly in the cost of public services.”

Last year the legislature made significant progress towards closing the gap between ever growing revenue shortfalls and necessary funding needs for essential state services. One of those key services is an ever improving K-12 education system that is focused on leading the world through the Kansans CAN vision.

While other conferees have shared different reasons to look at SB 376 in a positive manner, adding additional revenue sources to deal with ever increasing costs and needs throughout the state is certainly a benefit that cannot be overlooked.

KASB supports the continued efforts of this committee and the Kansas Legislature to find a stable funding stream to continue to improve the state of Kansas as we look to “Lead the world in the success of each student.”

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to share this testimony on the bill.