

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JIM GARTNER
53RD DISTRICT

Mister Chairman and members of the House Tax Committee

Today I would like to offer another option, increasing the standard deduction for Kansas Tax filers. We have heard testimony over the last two years concerning decoupling from the Federal Tax code and allowing Kansas Tax filers to itemize deductions. Based upon the data from the Department of Revenue, today around seven to eight per cent of filers itemize and if we decouple that per cent might grow to eighteen per cent at a cost of \$61 million per year.

I introduced HB 2538 to give this committee another option and that is to increase the standard deduction for all Kansas tax filers. This would give tax relief to all Kansans instead of just the eighteen per cent that decide to itemize on their Kansas return. Increasing the standard deduction would be less costly to the State, at least as recommended in HB 2538. It also would give the legislature additional flexibility in dealing with future tax enhancements if so warranted. The tax committee could decide to make appropriate adjustments going forward depending upon the financial circumstances of the State.

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss another alternative to lower taxes for all Kansans.

Respectfully,

Jim Gartner