



Written Testimony before the House Taxation Committee  
in opposition to

Senate Bill 22 – Income Taxation

by

Judith Deedy, Executive Director Game On for Kansas Schools

March 17, 2021

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

[Game On for Kansas Schools](#) is a nonpartisan grassroots effort among Kansans who share a belief in high-quality public education as a right of all Kansas students. We advocate for Kansas public schools to ensure our teachers, principals, superintendents, and school board members have the resources necessary to deliver quality education to all Kansas students. We inform communities across the state about issues and legislation affecting their students, and our membership extends statewide.

We oppose SB 22 because we believe it will have a significant impact on state revenues and negatively affect the legislature's ability to fund public education and other essential state services. According to estimates, SB 22 will cost roughly \$500 million its first year and \$1 billion over the first three years. As a public education advocacy organization, we saw the damage our state suffered when the Brownback tax cuts caused revenue to plummet. As parents, we witnessed the cuts to staff and programs and the increases in class sizes. The Gannon settlement promises to restore school districts' funding to the level they had in 2009, adjusted for inflation. Our children have been waiting for over a decade, and the Gannon funding is still being phased in and won't be completed until 2023. Now is not the time to jeopardize the promises made to Kansas children in the settlement of the Gannon case. We also remind this committee that unlike in the Montoy case, the Kansas Supreme Court retained jurisdiction in the Gannon case and has the authority to order the legislature to honor that funding plan.

While public education is our focus, we also do not want to see public education and other essential public services pitted against each other. We note that student performance is affected when other important family supports are underfunded.

Our children are our state's greatest resource, and our schools are a powerful engine for economic development. We should not prioritize unaffordable tax cuts over needed investments in our public schools and the children they serve. We already experienced the Brownback experiment, and it was a dismal failure. We must learn from our mistakes and not repeat them. We urge you to vote no on SB 22.