



TO: **Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee**

FROM: **Steven Greene, The Philanthropy Roundtable**

RE: **House Bill 2079**

DATE: **March 24, 2021**

Chairman Billinger and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 2079 on behalf of The Philanthropy Roundtable. Founded in 1991, The Philanthropy Roundtable's mission is to foster excellence in philanthropy, to protect philanthropic freedom, and to assist donors in achieving their philanthropic intent. Today, The Roundtable has over 600 active members consisting of wealth creators, private foundations, community foundations, and family foundations, including right here in Kansas.

According to Foundation Stats, a national report by the Foundation Center, Kansas is home to 775 private foundations that give more than \$215 million to charitable causes each year.¹ Kansas' future will be brighter if we continue to foster a friendly environment for private charitable organizations to meet the needs of our citizens, enrich our culture, and solve pressing societal challenges.

We believe House Bill 2079 is a solid piece of legislation that will align the regulation of nonprofits into the Attorney General's office. Their office has the expertise and resources to manage these areas while targeting bad actors.

Our organizations would respectfully submit and urge adoption of one amendment to this bill. We worked with the revisors office and the Attorney General's Office on the language of this amendment:

“A state agency or state official shall not impose any annual filing or reporting requirements on a private foundation, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 509(a), as in effect on the effective date of this act, or a charitable trust, as defined in 26 U.S.C. § 4947(a)(1), as in effect on the effective date of this act, that are more stringent, restrictive or expansive than such requirements in the Kansas Statutes Annotated or federal law.”

¹ <http://data.foundationcenter.org/#/foundations/all/state:KS/total/list/2015>

Essentially this amendment protects the status quo in Kansas and will ensure that any new requirements for Kansas' charitable organizations go through the legislative process. This is a common-sense reform that honors the transparency of the legislative process and will send the message to those engaged in philanthropy that Kansas remains a friendly place to do business.

Philanthropy serves as a vital part of our communities, and House Bill 2079 will help to protect Kansas' charitable sector. Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 2079 and the proposed amendment.