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Jami Reever,
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Opponent Testimony on SB 169 (Written)
House Committee on Taxation

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Bergkamp, and Members of the House Committee on Taxation:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on Senate Bill 169. Kansas Appleseed opposes this bill because of the harm it would bring to our state's ability to create thriving, just, and inclusive communities.

Like all of you, we've seen the budget reports that show our state is in a strong financial position thanks to increased revenues in the past several years. Our financial position gives us a tremendous opportunity to make thoughtful decisions on how we can spend those resources and where we can offer targeted, affordable relief that will not cripple us well into the future.

We have many concerns with this bill, including the disproportionate impact it would have on low income Kansans. While all Kansans would see a tax cut with SB 169, high income Kansans would benefit the most.

Too many hard-working Kansans are still struggling to put food on their tables, gas in their cars, and paying their mortgage. They shouldn't be left behind while the rich keep getting richer. We should be amplifying and supporting the tax bills that could provide immediate relief to Kansans, such as fully eliminating the sales tax on food, food ingredients, diapers, and hygiene products and offering a school supply tax holiday.

Our good fortunes provide us with an opportunity to consider how we can invest in students and our communities. Too many programs are already under-funded; our state's priority should be in fully funding K-12 education, special education, public health, and infrastructure.

SB 169 brings back many memories of tax experiments from the past that significantly burdened our state; we've spent the last five years recovering from those lean years that put our state on the brink. Let's not go backwards.

I encourage you to vote no on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.