

Written Neutral Testimony on HCR 5025 By Leah Fliter

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Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

KASB appears today as neutral on HCR 5025. Our permanent legislative platform language on State Tax Policy doesn't address the specific topic of valuing real property at a ten-year average of fair market value.¹ Our 2024 State Resolution includes opposition to arbitrary limits on taxes and valuations.²

The proposed constitutional amendment envisioned in HCR 5025 would smooth out some of the peaks and valleys associated with the impacts of annual real-property valuation. The measure would give taxpayers protection from "sticker shock" caused by steep increases in valuation such as those caused by recent inflationary pressures and would give school districts some predictability as they build their annual budgets.

We look forward to working with the legislature on bipartisan efforts to reduce taxes while ensuring sustainable, stable funding for public services, including our public schools.

Thank you.

KASB is a non-profit service organization built on an abiding belief in Kansas public schools. We have put the needs of students and K-12 leaders first since 1917.

¹ 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.

²We oppose arbitrary limits on taxes and valuations because of the long-term impact on revenues for schools and other public services. We urge caution and due deliberation in the consideration of tax policy.