

Written Testimony Support for Senate Bill No. 196

Aaron L Henderson, Sr

Leavenworth, KS 66048

January 4, 2024

Kansas State Legislature
300 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Senate Bill No. 196; reinstatement of the local ad valorem tax reduction fund (LAVTRF) as proposed by Senator Pittman

Dear Members,

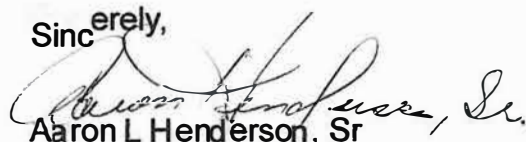
I'm asking for your support to approve Senate Bill No. 196, reinstatement of monetary transfers to the local ad valorem tax reduction fund (LAVTRF).

I understood (begrudgingly) the necessity for suspending the program during the State's budget crisis nearly 10 years ago, but I would submit that that crisis has long since passed. I believe it's time to reinstate the fund to provide some relief to the counties and citizens of the state (who are now, themselves, in a similar budget crisis).

I'm sure we all understand the impact inflation has had on the average American, so I won't restate the obvious, but I will provide you with a few examples of its impact on my household over the last three years. I'm retired military and drawing social security – so a relatively fixed income with periodic cost-of-living adjustments. That said, the cost-of-living adjustments did not keep pace with the rising costs associated with inflation over the same 3-year period. My main concern here is the 35% (plus) increase in the value of my house, coupled with the 33% increase in my property taxes, and subsequent 38% increase in my homeowners' insurance. More to the point, the net increase in these areas equates to roughly \$175 dollars more per month to sustain the household (which is on top of the \$400-dollar monthly increase for electricity, propane, automotive fuel and food). The cumulative (increase) annually exceeds \$6,500. At the current rate of tax increase, my wife and I estimate we're good for two more years, after which we'll need to move to another state with a lower tax burden. We are not alone...

While approval of LAVTRF will not fix everything, it will certainly have a positive impact on my current property tax situation. Every little bit helps and for that reason, I ask that you vote to approve the reinstatement of LAVTRF. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,


Aaron L Henderson, Sr