



## KANSAS SILVER HAURED LEGISLATURE

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### Written Testimony Before the House Committee on Taxation

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Thank you Chairman Johnson, a good afternoon to you and to Vice-Chair Mason and to Ranking Member Gartner to Vice-Chair and to the Distinguished members of the House Committee on Taxation.

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony in support of Senate Bill 104.

My name is Don Woodard. I am a 75, year-old retiree living in rural Auburn, Kansas. I am currently serving my fifth consecutive two-year term as the elected Silver Haired Legislator representing the Sixth District of Shawnee County. I am currently serving my fourth consecutive two-year term as the elected Speaker of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislator.

The Kansas Legislature passed Senate Concurrent Resolution #1649 in 1982 that created the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature which is patterned after the Kansas House of Representatives. One of the important goals of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature is to educate the citizenry regarding the needs of the elderly and to educate senior citizens about the legislative process. As volunteers we become involved with senior citizens and become an advocate for senior citizen issues. We actively communicate and serve as liaison for our constituents and with State Legislators.

Our support of SB104 is primarily focused on the amendment which added former SB91 to SB104, the "Golden Years Property Tax Freeze and Abatement Program.

Over the past several years the Silver Haired Legislature has attempted to propose legislation that would allow senior citizens to be eligible for property tax abatement based on their age, the value of their residence and their income level. While SB104 goes beyond just senior citizen home owners by including renters and disabled veterans, we certainly have no problem with their inclusion in this property tax relief proposal.

We believe that this bill could help as many as 42,000 senior citizens and disabled veterans in its first year. With a fiscal note of between \$10 and 14 million, we believe this is a reasonable cost to the state relative to the amount of good that will result from its application by providing

relief from the constantly increasing property taxes for the elderly and disabled with low fixed incomes.

Therefore, the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature supports SB104 and encourages the committee to report the bill favorably for passage by the full House.

Thank you for your time and attention. I will remain and stand for any questions at the time designated by the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Woodard, Speaker, Kansas Silver Haired Legislature