



House Taxation Committee
Chair, Rep. Adam Smith

Position – OPPOSE HB 2421

Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee,

The Mainstream Coalition strongly opposes passage of HB 2421 as a risky return to the irresponsible tax policies of the past, at a time when the State still has not recovered from those very policies. In addition, Kansans face economic hardships due to the unprecedented pandemic, and this bill would undercut the State's ability to help them when they need it most.

Kansas—and Kansans—cannot afford this bill, which some have estimated to cost hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue over three years. The State is still recovering from the Brownback tax experiment, catching up on the reckless sweeping of infrastructure funds from roads and bridges, and still years away from full funding of schools per the Kansas Constitution. Kansans will need considerable help from the State during the recovery period after the pandemic abates, and this bill would compromise the State's ability to provide that assistance.

Even if that money were to be found, the measures in the bill include benefits to international corporations and higher income individuals, who are not the Kansans hit hardest by the pandemic.

A similar bill was brought forward in 2019 (SB 22), and we opposed it then for the same reasons. It does not help the Kansans who need it most. If the committee is interested in helping those Kansans, we suggest lessening the burden of food taxes, or creating a fourth tax bracket to more accurately target tax relief to income level.

Please oppose passage of HB 2421.

Thank you,

Michael Poppa, Executive Director of the Mainstream Coalition
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Founded in 1993, the Mainstream Coalition is a nonpartisan nonprofit that advocates for common sense public policy in Kansas. Our members do more than vote.

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