



**Testimony in Support of HB 2528
Committee on Taxation**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2528. I am Leslie Anderson, the executive director of the Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities representing the network of eleven Area Agencies on Aging serving all 105 counties in Kansas.

The Area Agencies on Aging were created by the 1973 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which asserts that the organizations shall “serve as the advocate and focal point for older individuals within the community by (in cooperation with agencies, organizations, and individuals participating in activities under the plan) monitoring, evaluating, and commenting upon all policies, programs, hearings, levies, and community actions which will affect older individuals” [Sect. 306].

Older adults historically remain in the family home for numerous years while the value of their home generally increases. An average of 23% of Kansans aged 65 and older live alone; and according to a recent survey, three-quarters of older adults prefer to age in place.

A growing number of our parents, friends, neighbors on fixed incomes have limited options and face historic inflation and financial challenges. Older Kansans who contributed to the overall financial wellbeing of our State are the fastest growing segment of our population now. They are now in need and deserve attention and assistance. HB 2528 can substantially reduce the property tax burden and provide some financial relief for older Kansans. As commodities, including groceries, continue to be impacted by inflation, this relief can help with managing expenses needed to sustain a quality of life.

HB 2528 is vital to much-needed financial relief and stability of older Kansans, and to ensure access to the savings, we are hopeful the process will be straightforward, including simple forms.

Kansas Area Agencies on Aging appreciate your past and current support of older Kansans and are hopeful of your decision to pass HB 2528 as a Committee for consideration by both chambers.

Respectfully,
Leslie Anderson
Executive Director