



**Unified Government of
Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas**

701 North Seventh Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 573-5311 • info@wycokck.org

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 2815

Paul T. Davis

On behalf of the

Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

House Committee on Taxation

March 13, 2024

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Paul Davis and I am the lobbyist for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. The UG is testifying today as an opponent of House Bill 2815. The intent of this bill appears to be holding the line on or reducing property taxes. We very much share this goal. The UG is highly cognizant of high property taxes and reducing those taxes is a high priority. However, we don't believe that this bill is the right solution.

While the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund (LAVTRF) and the County and City Revenue Sharing Fund (CCRS) have not been funded by the Legislature since 2002, prior to that time these funds were indicative of a long-term partnership between state and local government. My understanding is that the creation of the CCRS stemmed from an agreement between municipalities and the State of Kansas where certain taxes would be collected at the state level and not at the local level. When the LAVTRF and CCRS were being funded by the Legislature, Wyandotte County was able to apply those dollars to property tax relief. There is no doubt that if these funds had been provided over the past twenty plus years, the property tax burden of our residents would be substantially lower.

This bill also proposes to end some transfers from the Special City and County Highway Fund (SCCHF). This is especially concerning to the UG because we have significant infrastructure needs in Wyandotte County the SCCHF is critical to addressing these needs.

The UG wants to part of the conversation about how we provide meaningful property tax relief to Kansas citizens and we hope this discussion will continue with the input of local government.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.