



March 15, 2024

**House Committee on Taxation
HB 2773 - Written Proponent Testimony
Aaron Mays, Shawnee County Commissioner**

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express support for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka's endeavor to secure a sales tax exemption for the construction of a workforce readiness, career, and leadership development center for middle and high school students who are underrepresented in the workforce, in leadership positions, and who face barriers to their pursuit of higher education. As a leader in this community, I am acutely aware of the challenges many of our youth encounter as they navigate their educational and professional pathways. The proposal to establish a dedicated facility aimed at equipping these students with the necessary skills and resources to thrive in the workforce and beyond is not only commendable but essential for the continued growth and prosperity of our community.

By providing a supportive and enriching environment, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka will empower young individuals to unlock their full potential, regardless of their background or circumstances. This initiative aligns perfectly with our collective vision of fostering inclusivity, diversity, and equal opportunities for all members of our community.

Furthermore, investing in the education and development of our youth today will yield long-term benefits for our society as a whole. By equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to pursue higher education, enter the workforce, and assume leadership roles, we are laying the foundation for a brighter and more prosperous future for Topeka and Shawnee County. I wholeheartedly urge the Kansas Legislature to grant the Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka the requested sales tax exemption for the construction of this much-needed facility. By doing so, we will not only invest in the future success of our youth but also reaffirm our commitment to building a more inclusive and equitable community for generations to come.

Thank you for considering my support for this important initiative. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact it will undoubtedly have on the lives of countless young individuals in our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Mays".

Aaron Mays, Vice Chair