



TESTIMONY OF
Sarah LaFrenz, President & Dwight Goodman, President
KANSAS ORGANIZATION OF STATE EMPLOYEES (KOSE)
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS – KANSAS (AFT-KS)
January 29, 2020

Chairman Johnson and Members of the House Taxation Committee:

As the Presidents of our respective organizations, we are providing written testimony in opposition to HB 2005, which would allow an income tax filer to itemize deductions in Kansas despite not itemizing on their federal income tax return. KOSE is the largest labor union in the State of Kansas representing over 7,000 Executive Branch employees, and AFT-KS represents over 15,000 teachers, nurses, university graduate teaching assistants, and other working Kansans.

After suffering under the oppressive conditions imposed by the Failed Tax Experiment under the previous Administration, our members are finally beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel as state resources for state agencies are finally trending in a more positive direction. While we acknowledge progress has been made, there is still so much more work to be done. KOSE & AFT-KS view HB 2005 not as another step in the right direction, but as a step backwards.

KOSE & AFT-KS believe Kansas cannot afford \$50 million in annual lost revenue to the state at this critical time. Not only will this bill cost too much money, it will disproportionately benefit higher income earners while doing very little to help low-and-moderate income tax earners. We encourage policy makers who are inclined to push for tax cuts during the 2020 session, to focus on efforts aimed to help those Kansans most in need and won't put Kansas back on the road to fiscal crisis.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2005. We strongly urge the committee not to advance this measure!