



Written Testimony:

Submitted by Angela Cassette, Managing Director of Music Theatre Wichita.

I am writing to submit proponent testimony for HB 2685.

This bill would offer sales tax relief for non-profit organizations in Kansas. Many of you have heard me testify over the past two years to the impact this bill would have on nonprofit theatres such as Music Theatre Wichita.

This past September we produced a large-scale, spectacular version of the musical *Cats*, with a host of talent from across the country. We built our own sets (in the style of Wichita's amusement park of old, "Joyland"), and we used 15,000 pounds of steel. We had to pay sales tax on that steel – but Spirit AeroSystems, our sponsor for the event, doesn't pay sales tax on steel they purchase to put in planes.

This anecdote is just an example of the positive change HB 2685 would bring. Music Theatre Wichita paid \$1.5 million in salaries to local actors, musicians, technicians, administrators, and teachers; as one of the largest arts not-for-profit organizations we brought \$184 million in economic activity to the Wichita area. Eliminating sales tax on good for our organizations means more money spent hiring.

Music Theatre Wichita is far from the only organization that would benefit from HB 2685. And we applaud the efficiency that would be brought with this bill. Once this bill has passed, individual nonprofits will spend less time coming before the tax committee advocating for individual exemptions, and more time serving the people of Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration.