

STATE OF KANSAS

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SENATE CHAMBER

Proponent Testimony for SB 94

Thank you Chairwoman Tyson and Committee Members for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of SB 94.

Even before becoming a legislator in 2005, I heard many “discussions” regarding property taxes. The discussions were not about how delighted Kansans were with their property taxes, but about how property taxes in Kansas are too high and cause economic hardships – especially for those on a fixed income.

SB 94 is an opportunity to provide real property tax relief for Kansas property owners by eliminating the 1.5 mills the state assesses for state and higher education buildings.

Although all property tax payers in Kansas would see a reduction in their property taxes, the two funds that receive the money collected from property taxes, the Kansas education building fund and state institutions building fund, would continue to receive funding with built in automatic increases.

You can see in the bill that the two funds would receive a total of nearly \$63 million in funding in 2024. That dollar amount would increase by 2% (approximately \$1.25 million) each year thereafter. However, the money will come from the SGF rather than assessed through property taxes.

There’s probably some who will oppose the idea of allowing property tax payers to keep more of their own money; which, of course, I struggle to understand. However, my motto has long been, “Putting taxpayers first.”

I ask that the Committee to recommend SB 94 favorably for passage.

I’m happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time