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Janel Bowers

To: Representative Steve Johnson, House Taxation Committee and Members of the Committee

Date: March 2, 2018

From: Janel Bowers, Director of Development and Friends of JCDS Board of Directors

Subject: In Support of HB2593, Oral Testimony

The Board of Directors of Friends of JCDS, Inc. is requesting your support of HB-2593 which will provide sales tax exemptions for projects that support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in Johnson County.

In January of 2018 we were notified by FHL Bank of Topeka that we were awarded a grant in the amount of \$552,366.00. This is for rehabilitation and remodeling of 12 houses in Johnson County, Kansas that provide accessible and affordable homes to individuals who receive residential services from Johnson County Developmental Supports.

For the last 20 years Friends of JCDS has been purchasing houses in Johnson County and renovating them to be accessible. This means widened doorways and halls, lowered countertops, ramps and accessible bathrooms. Funds for these projects have come from local Kansas Foundations, Community Development Block Grants and from individual donors. These houses are then rented to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities at below market rates.

With the acceptance of the FHL grant we will be able to complete needed renovations on all current property and complete long overdue modifications. The project will be completed within 4 years and will be completed by local contractors. These funds will add additional ramps, renovate bathrooms, and make other improvements to homes. This will also ensure that we are able to make these renovations without having to consider rental increases and ensure that rents do not exceed 30% of individual's income. This is key to the success of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in the community, as the average income of individuals served is \$1108 per month. The average rental cost in Johnson County exceeds \$500/month plus additional fees and deposits.

The sales tax exemption will provide additional savings to the agency that will be utilized to complete additional renovations. A fair estimate of \$30,000 in savings from sales tax exemption equates to:

- A bathroom renovation that will allow wheel chair access.
- A ceiling lift installation that will allow transition from bed, to bathroom, to wheelchair. Reducing falls, injury and preserving dignity.
- A ramp that will allow access to a home.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, time and public service to the State of Kansas and its residents.

Sincerely,


Janel Bowers, Director of Development