



**House Committee on Taxation  
Testimony in Support of HB 2569 and HB 2761  
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018**

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2569 and HB 2761, both of which amend Kansas law related to personal income tax treatment.

Earlier this session, this committee heard testimony from the Kansas Society of CPA's and the department of revenue regarding the impact of the federal tax cuts on the state budget. Essentially, the state is looking at gaining roughly \$130-\$190 million per year because of those cuts. Our support for these two bills stems from the thought that tax cuts on the federal level should not result in a windfall of revenue for the state.

According to the fiscal note of HB 2569, the cost of doubling the standard deduction would be roughly \$200 million per year. We would support increasing the standard deduction to a level that would at the very least be revenue neutral for the state, while benefitting taxpayers.

Testimony during the informational hearing also outlined that it could be a bit more difficult to implement for both department of revenue as well as for the taxpayer on HB 2761 compared to just increasing the standard deduction like HB 2569.

We are not advocating for one option over the other, but we do support ensuring that the tax burden for Kansans does not increase due to the tax cuts passed in December by Congress and we would encourage this committee to adopt changes to ensure the Kansas tax burden does not get any worse than what it is today. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these two bills and we would be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.