

March 13, 2018

Testimony in Support of SB341

**Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee**

**Honorable Chair – Senator Caryn Tyson**

**Honorable Vice Chair – Senator Dan Kerschen**

**Honorable Ranking Member – Senator Tom Holland**

Good morning Madam Chair and other esteemed members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 341. I was initially contacted by Stuart Ray from the Ronald McDonald House charities of Wichita to introduce legislation that provides a tax exemption to build a new Ronald McDonald House in Wichita. As a legislator and neighbor of the Wichita community, I have seen the Ronald McDonald House charities do wonders for families far and near. It is their mission to provide and support programs that directly improve the health and wellbeing of children. Their houses give beds and care to children undergoing medical treatment and those unable to pay are never turned away. They receive no monetary aid from federal, state, or local governments and rely on contributions from donors and the work of volunteers. To this date, the Ronald McDonald House has supported over 1700 families and the number still grows.

It is important to acknowledge that the quantity and quality of the support they provide is directly proportional to the funding available. The Ronald McDonald House is not a private business. With no prospects of personal gain, these donors and volunteers do what they do because they wish to see our children prosper. This work should not be inhibited by sales taxes, as every dollar should go to the betterment of our children. With that said, I strongly urge my fellow legislators to support Senate bill 341.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau