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**Rabbi Moti Rieber, Executive Director  
Rev. Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan, Board Chair**

## Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 22 House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, chair

Good morning Mr. Chair, members of the committee. My name is Rabbi Moti Rieber, I write on behalf of Kansas Interfaith Action, the organization of which I am executive director. KIFA is a statewide, multi-faith issue-advocacy organization that “puts faith into action” by educating, engaging and advocating on behalf of people of faith and the public regarding critical social and economic justice issues. I write to express today in strong opposition to SB 22

Kansas Interfaith Action considers the functions of state government to be a sacred trust with the people. Fully funded public schools, a functioning social safety net without onerous wait lists, and a competent and capable Department of Children and Families to protect our most vulnerable citizens – to use only three examples – are not optional; they are requirements, the absolute least that the state must do. And it is precisely these vital areas that were underfunded, understaffed and neglected over the past 8 years.

Kansas’ first priority should be addressing these issues, and to do that takes money. We will not be able to correct our prior mistakes all at once, but the last thing Kansas needs to do right now is turn hundreds of millions of dollars over to multinational corporations and our wealthiest citizens.

The federal tax bill led to millions of dollars in benefits to billionaires and corporations. They have used that money for stock buybacks and executive salaries, and not to expand, hire, or invest. Kansas does not need to follow that same course. We’ve tried that approach, and it led to the problems we are only beginning to dig out from now. We must not return to that path.

Kansas Interfaith Action believes that the only moral option is to prioritize fixing our broken departments, funding necessary services, and caring for our neighbors. Let’s look out for the least among us, for a change. Maybe after that, we can give tax relief to our most blessed. Please vote against SB 22, and lets give our new governor a chance to set things right.