



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

KELLY B. ARNOLD
COUNTY CLERK

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February 11, 2019

Chairman Tyson,

I am writing to oppose Senate Bill No. 91, which will amend the current statutory requirements for Homestead Property Tax filings to include renters.

As Sedgwick County Clerk, this bill will directly affect my office and offices such as mine across the state. Kansas County Clerks are required to assist homestead applicants under K.S.A. 79-4510. This mandatory requirement can present both staffing and budgetary constraints.

The Homestead Property Tax Refund was last available to renters in tax year 2012, and during those eligible years, my staff at the Sedgwick County Clerk's Office would process thousands of applications during the filing period. Reintegrating renters into the Homestead process could potentially cause the Clerk's duties and responsibilities to the citizens to suffer. In order to remain successful and in compliance with the law, my office must sacrifice productivity in its other roles and responsibilities, including statutory obligations for the Board of County Commissioners.

Additionally, as referenced by the fiscal note concerning HB 2372 dated March 6, 2017, the Department of Revenue estimates that allowing renters to claim the Homestead Property Tax Refund would decrease the State General Fund by \$15 million.

I believe removing the option for renters in this bill would allow the Sedgwick County Clerk's Office to continue fulfilling its statutory requirements and not diminish the level of quality customer service we currently provide to our citizens. I appreciate your reconsideration of SB 91.

Sincerely,

Kelly B. Arnold
Sedgwick County Clerk