



To: The Honorable Adam Smith, Chair
House Taxation Committee

From: Jeremy Stohs, Director, Government Relations, H&R Block

Date: Monday, February 8, 2021

Re: Support for Senate Bill 47, the Kansas Taxpayer Protection Act

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of about 130 H&R Block tax offices, nearly 1000 tax return preparers, and our Kansas City headquarters' employees who call Kansas home, H&R Block appreciates the opportunity to support Senate Bill 47.

H&R Block has excelled for more than 65 years as an industry leader because of our commitment to competent, ethical tax return preparation. While most tax preparers share this commitment, unfortunately, some do not. Each day, unscrupulous preparers search for new and exploitative ways to steal from the taxpayers of Kansas.

Senate Bill 47 would provide the Kansas Department of Revenue with additional and important consumer protection tools to 1) identify, and 2) stop fraudulent preparers from harming taxpayers.

First, this bill would enable the Department to track individuals who are paid for preparing tax returns in the state by leveraging an IRS preparer identification number that is already required for preparing federal tax returns. Preparers would be required to include this unique identifier on state tax returns they prepare or be subject to a penalty.

Second, if a preparer is identified who has engaged in specified bad conduct, Senate Bill 47 would authorize the Department to seek to enjoin the preparer from further conduct or from acting as a preparer in the state, including those who have been suspended before the IRS and in other states.

Last week, this legislation passed the Senate on a vote of 39-0. Last year, it passed the House on a vote of 118-1 before dying in conference after several non-related amendments were added. Over a dozen states in recent years have enacted similar legislation and have successfully used these tools to prevent fraudsters from preying on taxpayers. We respectfully ask that you pass Senate Bill 47 in order for Kansas taxpayers to be more fully protected.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Stohs
Director, Government Relations, H&R Block