



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY**
KANSAS

Chairwoman Tyson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am Elizabeth Patton, the State Director of Americans for Prosperity-Kansas. On behalf of the thousands of AFP activists in our state, I offer this testimony to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 1620, a proposed constitutional amendment to require a legislative supermajority to increase tax burdens on hardworking Kansans.

Americans for Prosperity exists to break down barriers that stand in the way of people creating their own success. Our mission is to change policies that keep people from realizing their potential.

State government has important responsibilities. It protects life, liberty, and property through a balanced criminal justice system. It supports transportation networks and related infrastructure to expand opportunity and prosperity. It facilitates the educational options that help children and young adults reach their full potential. These and other core competencies of government require revenue.

SCR 1620 helps Kansas raise necessary revenue in smarter ways. It requires a supermajority vote of two-thirds from both houses of the legislature when considering legislation to create a new tax or to increase the rates of various existing taxes. It does not cover fees, however, and including fees in the proposed amendment would strengthen it.

SCR 1620 would encourage legislators to consider more effective and efficient spending strategies to achieve state responsibilities. Some current activities may not be the best uses of taxpayer dollars. We would all benefit from more careful review of programs across the board and from more openness to adjusting priorities as the needs of our society change.

The amendment would help Kansas keep tax rates low. This is crucial for our state to remain competitive with nearby states. That way we can provide more freedom and more opportunities, ensuring that Kansas will remain an attractive place to raise a family, to start and run a business, to retire, and to live otherwise.

The amendment would continue to allow Kansas to raise more than enough revenue for the core beneficial activities of state government. Some tax bases could be broader, such as the sales tax, which would be more fair and less harmful than raising rates. In a pinch, of course, legislative supermajorities could raise rates, but that should be a last resort because economic damage escalates with each increment of a rate increase.

I thank you again for the opportunity to testify before this committee today and I look forward to continuing to work with this committee to make Kansas the best state to live, work, and pursue dreams.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton
State Director
Americans for Prosperity-Kansas