



March 16, 2018

Kansas Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee  
Senator Caryn Tyson, Chair  
Kansas State Capitol  
300 SW SW 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Topeka, KS 66612

**RE: Testimony in favor of Senate Bill 376 (Written Testimony Only)**

Every year thousands of Kansas die from tobacco-related illnesses, and the state spends over a billion dollars on tobacco-related health care costs.

In Douglas County, the leading cause of death is cancer, and for both men and women lung cancer contributes to more deaths than any other kind of cancer. It is shocking to many in this day and age that a largely preventable illness like lung cancer still causes more death in our county than any other single cause.

It is a proven public health strategy to reduce demand for cigarettes and other tobacco products by raising the price of these products. Senate Bill No. 376 would effectively raise the cost of tobacco products by implementing a \$1.50 cigarette tax increase.

In addition to reducing demand, revenue generated by this tax would be used, in part, to establish a tobacco cessation fund at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to support other efforts to decrease the use of tobacco in Kansas. We support this bill that would both help in the ongoing fight to reduce cancer deaths and to support the fiscal health of our state.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Keever".

Elizabeth Keever  
Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laurie Comstock".

Laurie Comstock  
Past Chair