

House Committee on Taxation
Representative Adams Smith, Chair

Written Testimony Jam'mryee Williams

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

As a proud alumna of Boys & Girls Clubs Topeka (BGCT), I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the sales tax exemption request for the construction of a new center specifically designed for teens. Having experienced firsthand the invaluable impact of BGCT's programs during my formative years, I firmly believe that this new center will be a game-changer for the youth in our community.

My journey with BGCT began when I was in elementary school, unsure of my path and lacking the guidance and resources to navigate the challenges of adolescence. However, stepping into the welcoming environment of BGCT changed everything for me. Suddenly, I was surrounded by mentors who believed in my potential, programs that sparked my interests, and a community that encouraged me to dream big.

Throughout my time at BGCT, I had the opportunity to participate in a range of activities focused on workforce readiness, career exploration, and leadership development. From resume workshops to job shadowing experiences, BGCT equipped me with practical skills and confidence that have been instrumental in my academic and professional journey. The mentorship I received from BGCT staff and volunteers also played a crucial role in shaping my character and instilling in me a sense of responsibility and leadership.

Now, as a successful professional in the education field, I can trace back many of my achievements and milestones to the foundation laid by BGCT. The lessons I learned about perseverance, teamwork, and resilience continue to guide me in my daily life, and I am forever grateful for the impact BGCT has had on shaping me into the person I am today.

The need for a dedicated center for teens within BGCT's network is more pressing than ever. Our youth face unprecedented challenges, from academic pressures to social media influences, and having a safe and supportive space like BGCT can make all the difference. This new center will not only provide essential resources and programming tailored to the needs of teens but will also serve as a beacon of hope and opportunity for generations to come.

I urge you to support this exemption for the construction of this new center for teens under Boys & Girls Clubs Topeka. Your investment will not only transform physical spaces but will also transform lives, empowering young people to reach their full potential and become the leaders and change-makers our community needs.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your commitment to the well-being and success of our youth.