

February 19, 2024

The Honorable Rick Billinger, Chairperson  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Statehouse, Room 548-S  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Billinger and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: Proponent Testimony on HB 2495

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on HB 2495. The primary purpose of this bill is to appropriate state general fund (SGF) in fiscal year 2024 to agencies that did not receive a sufficient amount of SGF to cover the expenses from the statewide pay adjustment approved during the 2023 legislative session. For agencies that are fee funded and have expenditure limitations, this bill will also increase the expenditure limitation to allow them to set the appropriate level of funding to effectuate the pay plan in fiscal year 2025.

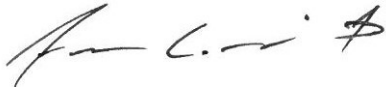
Moving this bill forward will meet the commitment made by the State Finance Council (SFC) during their meeting on June 7, 2023, where the SFC acknowledged the shortfall contained in the Omnibus bill, and committed to moving a supplemental funding bill forward early in the 2024 session. Given that we are currently on day 43 of session, I am hopeful that the Senate can act swiftly to pass this piece of legislation. The House passed this bill on a 119-0 vote, and I am humbly requesting similar support from this committee, as well as the full Senate.

I would also request that this committee amend HB 2495 to add Section 18 from SB 382 into HB 2495 as a clean amendment. This language would reallocate the remaining funds in the legislature employment security fund to fund the university of Kansas and Wichita state university health collaboration fund. The money in this section was initially appropriated with the 2023 Mega bill, but it was subsequently lapsed due to language inserted into the 2023 Omnibus bill. The Division of the Budget would support adding this language to correct the original lapsing language.

I humbly request that the committee make no further amendments to HB 2495, and move this bill out of committee favorably for passage, where it can receive a vote from the full Senate as quickly as possible.

I appreciate this committee's willingness to have a hearing on this important piece of legislation, and I look forward to the opportunity to partner with the legislature on the bill as it moves forward. I would be happy to answer any questions that the committee might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Proffitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct flourish at the end.

Adam Proffitt  
Director of the Budget