

NORTH WEST KANSAS

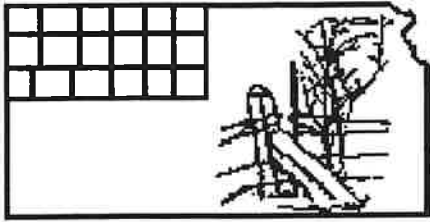
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SERVING 18 COUNTIES IN NORTHWEST KANSAS



March 1, 2022

House Taxation Committee
Chair Representative Adam Smith
and Members of the Committee

Michelle Morgan, Executive Director
Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging (NWKAAA)

HB 2684 – Providing Sales Tax Exemption for Area Agencies on Aging

Thank you for the opportunity to visit with you about HB 2684.

The Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging is part of a national network of agencies created in 1973 by the Older Americans Act. It is a private, non-profit organization with the responsibility of administering Older Americans Act programs in the 18 counties of northwest Kansas. Designated as the local single point of entry, the NWKAAA serves as the unbiased, trusted source for older Americans and their caregivers. Whether it is information on available options, in-home services, nutrition services, or insurance counseling a senior only needs to make a call to the local Area Agency on Aging office to connect them with the resources needed to help them remain independent in their homes and communities. Additionally, as a grassroots organization, advocacy for older adult services is a high priority of the Area Agency on Aging.

According to the Administration for Community Living, by 2030, 73 million – or one in five-people in the U.S. - will be 65 or older. Regardless of age, geographical location, income, or political affiliation, older adults generally agree on one thing: they want to age in their own homes and communities rather than in institutional settings.

To maximize the impact of service dollars for older adults, I would ask that your committee consider establishing equity for the value of service dollars available to older adults in both the rural and urban parts of the state. Currently there are eight non-governmental, nonprofit Area Agencies on Aging that pay state sales tax and three county government Area Agencies on Aging in in Kansas (Johnson, Wyandotte, and Sedgwick) that are exempt from state sales tax.

This sales tax exemption is much needed as we face the challenge of meeting the needs of an aging population in Kansas. For example, in northwest Kansas we paid approximately \$15,412 in state sales tax last year. If parity was established for the AAAs, my rural agency could provide 923 more hours of attendant care or homemaker services to allow older adults to safely live in the setting of their choice.

I respectfully request that the committee consider balancing the value of service dollars across the state so that no matter which region of Kansas an older adult chooses to live, as much service as possible is available to them. Services and providers are limited in western Kansas, so it is imperative to have equitable value of allocated resources to be able to pay providers a competitive rate to ensure workers are available to meet the needs of older adults in northwest Kansas.

Thank you for your interest in HB 2684 which would establish taxation equity across the state for older Kansans in need of services. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.