

Written only testimony in support of: House Bill 2111: Establishing a 0% state rate for sales and use taxes for food and food ingredients, providing a sales tax exemption for children's diapers and feminine hygiene products, establishing the STAR bonds food sales tax revenue replacement fund, altering the calculation for STAR bond districts and discontinuing the food sales income tax credit.

Submitted by:

Julia Nightengale

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Dear Senator Adam Smith, Senator Brian Bergkamp, Senator Tom Sawyer, and members of the House Committee on Taxation,

My name is Julia Nightengale, and I live in Wichita, Kansas. I am currently a student at Wichita State university in the social work program where I will receive my master's degree in Spring 2023. I am a proponent of House Bill 2111: Establishing a 0% state rate for sales and use taxes for food and food ingredients, providing a sales tax exemption for children's diapers and feminine hygiene products, establishing the STAR bonds food sales tax revenue replacement fund, altering the calculation for STAR bond districts and discontinuing the food sales income tax credit.

As a full-time college student who is responsible for buying my own food and feminine hygiene products, I often must make difficult decisions to go without or ration items, such as feminine hygiene products, that I need due to finances. I often must choose food options that are unhealthy so that I can afford enough food. Removing this tax would make many of these decisions easier so that I can focus on my goal of becoming a LMSW, serving in the great state of Kansas.

My experience is only one of many. I also work as a graduate student at the Public Policy and Management Center, where I am a navigator for the Recovery Connect program, an economic recovery program that connects individuals, businesses, and nonprofits with resources to help them recover from the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this role, I speak to many individuals in Sedgwick County and hear daily about various struggles to pay for their most basic needs. I know that the passing of this bill would help to alleviate some of the financial strain that these individuals face.

I urge the members of the House Committee on Taxation to support House Bill 2111, which would eliminate sales tax on food, diapers, and feminine hygiene products. I know that it will have a positive impact on the lives of Kansans. Thank you for your consideration.