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## TESTIMONY (Written Only)

### House Committee on Taxation

By Andy Sanchez, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

KANSAS AFL-CIO

February 7, 2023

Chairman Smith and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to share our **SUPPORT** of HB 2111. The bill seeks to make changes to state tax policy on food and include a tax exemption on children's diapers and feminine hygiene products. The periodic visit to the grocery store is putting a great deal of stress on Kansans, many of whom are already struggling with inflation of just about everything. HB 2111, by our understanding is again aimed at groceries to include consumables such as food, food ingredients, candy, bottled water and soft drinks. This bill accelerates our quest to get to 0% state tax on food to include the items mentioned previously. This is family friendly tax policy that our state can do. HB 2111 does not include extending the exemption from sales tax for prepared food that is primarily restaurant food.

On behalf of the 75,000 members we represent, we believe HB 2111 offers the most sound tax policy for our state. By reducing the sales tax on food outlined in HB 2111, we believe we can make good on our progress for all working families to fair better against economic pressures seeming beyond their control, and do so sooner. The Kansas AFL-CIO supports HB 2111 because it seeks to rectify our standing comparable to other states. Before this year, Kansas was one of just seven states in the U.S. that fully taxes groceries, and the second highest rate in the country at 6.5% that set us apart and not in a good way. Kansas can do better and we have to do better! The Kansas AFL-CIO works hard to improve the quality of life for Kansas' workers. We know, as lawmakers you have those same objectives of showing the rest of the country that Kansas can be your home, and you can support and raise a family here. Passage of this bill adds savings to get to

the projected \$500 average Kansas families of four deserve to support their loved ones. This can be the lifeblood to our economy at this unique time of healthy revenues and job growth. As time goes on, household disposable income will help businesses grow. It is not just mere relief, but it family spending multiplies as it is redistributed through our local communities and economies. These are real dollars!

Thank you for taking action in 2022 to incrementally give relief to working families, it has been noticeably appreciated. Our members know that you must balance economic growth with efficiency when tax cuts are being considered to have the resources to still run government. The potential impact of HB 2111 can only help the budgeting for families across the state. We wholeheartedly support HB 2111 for the reasons outlined here and hope that you are encouraged to support the bill for passage. Thank you.