



**House Committee on Welfare Reform
Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2673
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2673, which prohibits the purchase of candy and soft drinks from the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP).

Kansas is home to many candy and soft drink manufacturers, employing nearly 2,000 Kansans. These food producers are large contributors to the Kansas economy through wages and tax revenue. Specifically targeting these sources of food through a SNAP exclusion is a narrow and ill-advised effort to be resourceful with taxpayer resources.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, SNAP recipients consume the same amount of candy and soda as non-SNAP households. If the goal is to focus on improving health outcomes of SNAP recipients, policies should focus on incentivizing behavior versus prohibitions.

In closing, we respectfully ask the committee to oppose House Bill 2673.