



Welfare Reform Committee
February 12, 2024

Chairman Awercamp and Committee members,

My name is Jon McCormick, President and CEO of the Retail Grocers Association of Kansas and Missouri. I come here today as a representative of the independent grocery store and convenience stores in our State that are participating in the public-private partnership that is SNAP.

I am writing you today to ask you to support SNAP CHOICE and **VOTE NO on HB 2673.**

Any type of SNAP restrictions would turn the KS independent retailers into the FOOD POLICE. Further, it would cause yet another call to their POS provider to change their systems to match another government dictate from the Kansas Legislature.

This change would be devastating to the stores who would have an increased administrative burden and too many embarrassed and frustrated customers who need financial assistance to provide for their families. Focusing on this particular group of Kansans is misdirected.

Restricting SNAP Choice has been put forward by numerous states. None have been successful and there is a reason because it is a bad idea. Mandating healthy choices? Where does it stop? What about jelly donuts in the bakery? Ice Cream? A bag of sugar itself? The Big Gulp mandate ... an utter failure.

“Soft Drinks” ... the definition would include Gerber Apple Juice, Ocean Spray cranberry juice and so many other sugared beverage products it is unfathomable. I can’t go into the candy definition because it is fraught with impossible administration as well.

As a former independent retailer myself, and now a representative of independent retailers, I ask you to continue your support of these Main Street businesses and in turn, the Kansas families that need SNAP Choice to be unencumbered from “**Unbearable Food Mandates from the Government**” like HB 2673.

Please preserve SNAP CHOICE Vote NO on HB 2673.

Thank you for your time today and thank you for your dedication to your fellow Kansans.
If you have any questions for me, I stand ready.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon".

Jon McCormick, President/CEO, Retail Grocers Association KS & MO 913-226-8020 jmccormick@rgakc.com