

January 31, 2017

Teresa Kelly
Chair Person
Johnson County Food Policy Council

House Bill 2143- Testimony for the Committee on K-12 Education Budget

Dear Representative Larry Campbell K-12 Education Budget and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns about the requirement of school boards to go through the Department of Administration for information technology equipment, services and software, food and fuel with the exception of locally within 1% of total cost proposed in House Bill No. 2143.

As the chairperson for the Johnson County Food Policy Council I oppose this bill.

The burden that could be created by shifting the administrative burden to the state level would undermine local districts' abilities to serve the needs of their students and community. In alignment with the Council's founding resolution we are charged with providing a forum "to encourage the offering of better and fresher food available locally" and "to encourage larger institutional entities to commit to increasing the use of local food to support growth and the local economy."

The Council reviews and recommends policies to the Board of County Commissioners to strengthen the local food economy and improve access to healthy and nutritious food.

- A. Creating a forum for discussion and coordination for community-wide efforts to improve nutritional, environmental, economic, and social healthy Johnson County.
- B. Building the capacity of local food policy bodies to find common ground on policy priorities, generate public support for those policies, and educate residents and community leaders on issues in our food system.
- C. Developing strategies to effectively address food access, hunger, obesity, community development, economic development, agriculture, food waste, and nutrition and food education.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the committee oppose House Bill 2143.

Teresa Kelly

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Johnson County Food Policy Council Chairperson
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