



February 1, 2018

Emily Brown
Chief Executive Officer
Proponent
SCR 1604

Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1604. Food Equality Initiative is a Kansas City based nonprofit with a mission to end hunger and increase health in low income families diagnosed with food allergies and celiac disease through access to "free-from" foods, nutrition education, and advocacy.

Reducing the grocery sales tax in Kansas is important to our organization because many of our clients are forced to purchase expensive grocery items due to a medical diagnosis. Having the additional tax burden further limits access to the necessary foods to maintain their health.

I am also a resident of Kansas City, Kansas and I personally pay an average of \$31.20 each month in grocery tax. The high grocery sales tax in Kansas has contributed to Kansas' health ranking has significantly declined from the 8th to the 27th healthiest state in the nation. - 2014 America's Health Rankings

Lowering the sales tax on food would benefit the Kansas economy while putting dollars back into the pockets of Kansas families who need it most. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support SCR 1604.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emily Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Emily Brown
CEO, Food Equality Initiative, Inc.