



January 29, 2018

Dear Chairperson Tyson and members of the Committee,

The Giving Grove was founded by individuals in Kansas who were deeply concerned for the growing number of hungry people in our area, and seeking a way to provide more sustainable, nutrient-rich food, the founders began exploring the idea of creating edible tree gardens to feed the hungry.

Having planted sustainable fruit and berry orchards with 145 communities – we have seen first hand that residents which often go without food, simply do not have the discretionary income to pay for healthy fruits and vegetables, as they attempt to stretch their dollar. It is precisely these families that will benefit the greatest by SCR 1604.

Over the past two and a half decades, U.S. households in the lowest income quintile (the poorest 20 percent of households) spent between 28.8 and 42.6 percent of their annual before-tax income on food, compared with 6.5 to 9.2 percent spent by households in the highest income quintile. As a result, families in these low-income areas consume fewer, and the lowest cost calories – which ultimately results in poorer health. SCR1604 creates a meaningful path for low income families to increase access to healthy foods. **Modest improvements in dietary quality have been shown to have a significant impact on reducing the burden of chronic disease** (obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes) and, for women, an increase in economic self-sufficiency.

For our Kansas children, good nutrition, particularly in the first three years of life, is important in establishing a good foundation that has implications for a child's future physical and mental health, academic achievement, and economic productivity.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask the committee to support SCR 1604.

Sincerely,

Rob Reiman,  
CEO | The Giving Grove