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**Proponent Testimony for SB 444 — Decreasing the Sales and Use Tax Rate on Food and Food Ingredients.**

**Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation**

**Proponent:** Jeanette Pryor, Legislative Assistant, Kansas Catholic Conference

March 20, 2018

Madame Chair Tyson and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Catholic Conference supports decreasing the sales and use tax rate on food and food ingredients. This is one way of easing the burden that a high sales tax places upon our families and the poor as they try to purchase the necessities of life.

The United States Department of Agriculture reported in 2018 that the cost of feeding a family of four on a “moderate food plan,” for only one month is \$1,052.40. This means the average family will pay nearly \$13,000.00 just on food each year. Poor families and those blessed with many children may spend nearly a third of their yearly income just to feed their children.

We commend the committee for considering this proposal that would substantially alleviate the challenges our families face as they raise the next generation for Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration.

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