



3801 Topping Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64129

215 SE Quincy Street
Topeka, KS 66603

Toll-Free 877.353.6639
www.harvesters.org

March 9, 2020

Valerie Nicholson-Watson
President & CEO
Harvesters—The Community Food Network
Written testimony in support of House Bill 2720
House Taxation Committee

Chairman Johnson and members of the Committee:

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Harvesters—The Community Food Network, the regional food bank serving northeast Kansas. Our nonprofit network includes 490 charitable organizations providing food assistance to hungry and food insecure children, seniors and adults in 16 Kansas counties.

Harvesters supports HB 2720. At a time when 12.7% of Kansans are food insecure and an alarming 18.3% of Kansas children are food insecure, reinstating the refundability of the food sales tax credit would help the most vulnerable among us meet their basic needs.

We know from Feeding America's most recent *Hunger in America* study that Kansans living on limited household incomes are making difficult choices. Of those coming to our network of emergency feeding sites for assistance

- 65% have had to choose between paying for food or utilities
- 64% have had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care
- 53% have had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage

A refundable food sales tax credit would provide targeted help to those low-income families who are most economically fragile. And the reinstatement of refundability would be a significant benefit to elderly Kansas on a fixed income who often don't have enough income to file a tax return. If the food sales tax refund was reinstated, many of them could again file returns and receive a refund, which could go a long way in helping them manage their ever-increasing household expenses.

We ask for your careful consideration and vote in support of this bill that will help Kansas' children, families and seniors who are most in need.

Harvesters' mission is to feed hungry people today and work to end hunger tomorrow.

