



January 27, 2022

Testimony in Support of HB 2525 House Children & Seniors

Chair Concannon and Members of the House Children & Seniors Committee:

The Kansas Food and Farm Coalition (FFC) supports HB 2525. Kansas FFC is a group of long-standing nonprofit organizations concerned about our food system—from farm to fork. Coalition members include KC Healthy Kids, the Kansas Food Action Network, the Kansas Rural Center, and Harvesters—The Community Food Network. (The attached one-pager provides more information about FFC). Our coalition works to support policies that assist small and mid-sized farms, increase production and sales of locally grown foods, increase access to healthy food for all, and reduce food insecurity in our communities. HB 2525 is a good step in working toward several of these goals.

HB 2525 directly addresses one of our policy priorities. We're not the experts on child welfare and child support, but our members do know that increasing SNAP enrollment among eligible individuals and families, and in particular, removing the child support enforcement requirement for SNAP, helps Kansas kids and families. When parents have reliable access to nutritious food, they, and their children, reap the benefits of better nutritional and health outcomes. Addressing basic needs such as food security ease the way to stability, work, and self-sufficiency. Additionally, increasing participation in SNAP positively impacts our farmers and food system, too, as farmers and ranchers receive 15 cents of every dollar spent on food.

This bill is an important step in providing more equitable access to healthy food, while also impacting the state's food system overall for the better. For these reasons we ask you to support HB 2525. Thank you for your consideration and I welcome any questions you may have on this matter.

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