



January 26, 2022

Testimony in Support of HB 2215 House Corrections & Juvenile Justice

Chairman Owens and Members of the House Corrections & Juvenile Justice
Committee:

The Kansas Food and Farm Coalition (FFC) would like to express its support for HB 2215. 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 2215 is a good step in working toward several of these goals.

HB 2215 directly addresses one of our policy priorities, which is increasing SNAP enrollment among eligible individuals and families, and in particular, removing the ban on SNAP for drug felons. The ability for individuals who may be struggling with addiction or other behavioral health conditions to access healthy food on a regular basis is a simple, but significant, step toward more stability. 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 2215. Thank you for your consideration and I welcome any questions you may have on this matter.

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