

March 8, 2022

GAYONA MCDONALD  
GENESIS-THOMAS COUNTY, INC  
245 E CHERRY  
COLBY, KS 67701

Opposition to Senate Bill 501—Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the Committee:

I am a retired postal worker and widow. I am also a grandmother of 13 grandchildren.

- This testimony is submitted on behalf of GENESIS-THOMAS COUNTY, INC in opposition to Senate Bill 501.
- I am submitting this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 501.
- I am a lifelong Kansan. I serve on a board for our local food bank, Genesis-Thomas County, Inc.
- I am also a food bank volunteer and I know how hard Kansans are working to make ends meet every month to provide for their needs.

I would ask for your thoughtful consideration and vote in opposition to this bill that will

- cost Kansas taxpayers' tens of millions of dollars, increase food insecurity among working poor Kansas families and put additional pressures on community food pantries trying to help their neighbors.
- bloat state government, increase food insecurity and overwhelm the charitable food pantries in Kansas.
- make these important family support programs more costly and less effective, further overburdening Kansas' charitable food pantries.
- SB 501 buries struggling food insecure Kansans in paperwork.

Many Kansas' charitable food pantries are run by volunteers, and they are still seeing record need after two years of the pandemic. The charitable sector is already overwhelmed and cannot meet the needs of even more food insecure Kansans if SB 501 goes into effect and families lose the SNAP benefits for which they are eligible. Please vote in opposition to this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayona McDonald