



**GREATER KC
FOOD POLICY
COALITION**
kchealthykids

February 20, 2023

Steering Committee
Greater KC Food Policy Coalition
Opponents of SB 248
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Chairwoman Tyson and members of the committee,

The Greater KC Food Policy Coalition convenes diverse stakeholders to advocate for an equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system in the greater Kansas City region. On behalf of our 21 steering committee members, I am voicing our opposition to the misguided SB 248.

This bill takes food off the table.

If you have ever shopped for groceries with a calculator, you know every cent counts. Imagine trying to figure out which items in your cart will be taxed or not. For those living in communities that lack convenient, affordable access to “healthy” food, this bill puts an extra strain on their wallet.

This bill puts a burden on grocers.¹

The state food sales tax drives consumers across state lines to save money on groceries. Forty of Kansas’ counties share a border with neighboring states, which exempt food purchases or tax food at a lower rate. This bill puts an additional burden on grocers who have to navigate the confusing tax exemptions.

Keep your promise to Kansans.

Last year, the legislature passed a bill to gradually eliminate the state food sales tax. Less than two months after that law went into effect, this bill threatens to increase the state sales tax on food deemed “unhealthy” by the committee. Give Kansans the tax break you promised.

Sincerely,

Rachael McGinnis Millsap, MSW
Vice President of Programs and Policy, KC Healthy Kids
Interim Director, Greater KC Food Policy Coalition

¹ Wichita State University. Kansas Public Finance Center. 2016.