



## Opponent: HB 2015

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February 4, 2025

**Dear Chairman Averkamp and members of the House Committee on Welfare Reform:**

The [Kansas Food Action Network](#) is a statewide advocacy network focused on building resilient local food systems in Kansas. We are a network composed of over 30 local food, farm and policy councils representing 73% of Kansans.

**We are opposed to the passage of HB 2015**, which would direct the DCF secretary to request a waiver from the SNAP program to allow Kansas to prohibit the purchase of candy and soft drinks with these benefits. While we appreciate the intent of the legislation (which we assume is to help make Kansans healthier), we are opposed because:

- This bill takes away choice from Kansas families. We believe that Kansans know best what foods align with their values, culture, and preferences. We believe that Kansans (and not legislators) should choose what they want to eat and feed their families.
- This bill would also be really difficult to implement. While the definitions of “candy” and “soft drinks” may feel straightforward, new products are introduced every day, and maintaining a list of eligible/ineligible products would add a significant administrative burden to Kansas small businesses.

If you are looking for an opportunity to help low-income Kansans and their families to eat healthy food, consider providing state dollars to support the [Double Up Food Bucks program](#). This program provides a \$1:\$1 match on SNAP purchases for fruits and vegetables. SNAP participants can spend up to \$25/day of their benefits and receive \$50 in fresh produce. There are 162 participating farmers markets, farm stands, and grocery stores in Kansas that currently participate in the program.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Miranda Miller-Klugesherz  
Senior Director  
Kansas Food Action Network