

Date: February 5, 2025

Bill Number: HB2101

Disposition: Opponent

Name: Richard Pund

Self

Chair Averkamp and members of the committee,

My name is Richard Pund and I am a resident of Overland Park. I am writing in opposition to HB2101. I believe guaranteed income programs are a very effective form of government aid and should not be restricted. Adding conditions such as a work requirement will create a lot of red tape. A local government with the means to create a guaranteed income program will only have so much money in their budget. Does the state want that money spent on hiring more bureaucrats, or put it towards helping more people in need? The choice seems obvious to me.

I also believe that adding work requirements to these programs would effectively turn it into a massive business subsidy. I thought the state's economic development strategy was to use public money to attract well-paying jobs. Why is it giving handouts to businesses paying poverty wages? They won't have a reason to raise wages if the state is going to compel welfare recipients to take these jobs regardless.

Really, if the committee wants to get more people off of welfare, I recommend a bill that establishes a living wage in our state. The way things are now, someone can work 40 hours a week and still not make enough to get by. How is that acceptable?

Thanks for your time,

Richard Pund