

February 6, 2017

Teresa M. Kelly
Food Policy Advocate
4200 W 54th Terrace
Roeland Park, KS 66205

SB 95 Testimony for Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

Chairwoman Schmidt and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 95. I am an active and dedicated food policy advocate serving on the Johnson County Food Policy Council and the Steering Committee for the Kansas City Food Policy Coalition. It is a personal passion of mine to improve access to healthy food for all Kansans. I support SNAP and TANF as important ways to improve the health of the children of our state. I would like you to take under consideration the following small changes to Senate Bill 95.

Please consider:

Modifying the TANF work requirement for new mothers Reinstating the work requirement to one year will allow new mothers more time to search for sustainable employment and find quality childcare at a cost lower than newborn/infant rates since the child will be one year old.

Acceptance of voice signature Allowing the ability to submit telephonic signatures would significantly improve the Food Assistance application process for applicants and for the Division of Children and Families (DCF). Without this option, it can place undue burden on the community partners serving individuals in remote rural areas or elderly or homebound individuals who are not able to physically go to facilities to receive services.

Allow the Secretary of DCF to request a waiver in times of distress It is important to return to the Secretary of the Division of Children and Families the authority to request the federal waiver for work requirements option in times or areas of high unemployment and/or insufficient jobs (such as the 2008 recession).

As an elected official in my city, I make the best possible decisions for the good of the city and the folks who reside there. I encourage you to consider the good of all the people you serve, as you discuss these modifications to SB95. With these small changes, you can affect significant economic impact to your most vulnerable of your communities and in setting the stage for vibrant local economies and healthy Kansas kids.

Thank you,

Teresa M. Kelly

Senate Public Health and Welfare

Date 2.7.17

Attachment 24