

CULTIVATE

Kansas City

February 2, 2017

Sarah Dehart Faltico
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Cultivate Kansas City
4223 Gibbs Road, Kansas City, KS 66106
Senate Bill 95 - Testimony for Public Health and Welfare Committee

Dear Chairwoman Schmidt and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support to restore access to SNAP, TANF and child care assistance proposed in Senate Bill 95.

As a program manager that doubles SNAP dollars spent on local food purchases at participating locations, I support Senate Bill 95.

Allow the DCF Secretary to request a waiver in times of distress

The DCF Secretary should have the authority to request the federal waiver for work requirements option when there is high unemployment or insufficient jobs in the area to support the population.

Acceptance of voice signature

Many individuals require assistance to navigate the benefits application process; the assistance provided often occurs over the phone using the online application portal because the applicants are either in remote rural areas, elderly, homebound, or are not able to physically visit a site to complete an application by hand. The additional time, cost, and paper trail required to mail the application form to the applicant creates unnecessary complexity in a process for individuals who already face tremendous barriers. The bill would provide the ability to submit telephonic signatures, which would significantly improve the Food Assistance application process for applicants and for the Department of Children and Families (DCF), creating more efficiency and reduced time and cost for all parties involved.

Once individuals receive benefits, programs like Double Up Food Bucks can help them stretch SNAP dollars for the purchase of fresh, healthy produce while encouraging their dollars be spent with local farmers and food producers. This creates a win-win for the economy for both families in need and the farmers who feed us.

For these reasons, I respectfully request the committee support Senate Bill 95, as it will create more efficiencies and an economic boost for all parties involved. Thank you for your consideration, and please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Sarah Dehart Faltico
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913-203-5533

Senate Public Health and Welfare

Date 2.7.17

Attachment 26