

February 13, 2019

Emily Brown
Chief Executive Officer
Food Equality Initiative
11 E 40th Street
House Bill 2261 and Testimony for House Taxation Committee

Dear Representative Steven Johnson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns about the state grocery sales tax proposed in House Bill 2261.

As the CEO of a Kansas City based non-profit working to end hunger and increase health in low income families with medical food allergy and celiac diagnoses, I support this bill.

Reducing the grocery sales tax in Kansas is important to our organization because many of our clients are forced to purchase expensive grocery items due to a medical diagnosis. Having the additional tax burden further limits access to the necessary foods to maintain their health.

I am also a resident of Kansas City; Kansas and I personally pay an average of \$31.20 each month in grocery tax. The high grocery sales tax in Kansas has contributed to Kansas' health rank decline from the 8th to the 27th healthiest state in the nation. – 2014 America's Health Rankings.

Lowering the sales tax on food would benefit the Kansas economy while putting dollars back into the pockets of Kansas families who need it most. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support House Bill 2261.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at the number listed below.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to share my concerns.

Sincerely,



Emily Brown
816-800-0884
CEO, Food Equality Initiative, Inc.

