

February 13, 2019

Lisa Markley, MS, RDN  
Past Chair, Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition  
KC Healthy Kids  
El Centro Building  
650 Minnesota Ave  
Kansas City, KS 66101

House Bill 2261- Testimony For Chairman Johnson

Dear Chairman Johnson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns about lowering the state grocery sales tax to 5.5% as proposed in House Bill 2261.

As a registered dietitian and concerned mother/community member, I support this bill.

I'm concerned that Kansas has among the highest sales tax on groceries in the country. My family of four spends on average about \$1100 on groceries each month, where sales tax is close to 10% in state and local taxes. This adds up about about \$100 every month or \$1200 a year.

While my family can make adjustments to offset this cost, I worry that the food choices made by many of the nutrition clients that I serve in Kansas City who are on a fixed income are impacted by this. They may have to opt for cheaper, processed foods that can compromise their health instead the fresh fruits and vegetables that tend to be more expensive. And many have also reported they travel across the state line to Missouri to do their grocery shopping. If sales tax on groceries in Kansas was reduced, it would allow them more money in their food budget to opt for more healthful options from our Kansas grocery stores, keeping money in our community.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Markley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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