

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



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CAROLYN MCGINN
STATE SENATOR, 31ST DISTRICT
HARVEY AND NORTH SEDGWICK COUNTIES

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February 20, 2019

Madam Chair Tyson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for having a hearing on SB 76 to lower the sales tax on food. Over the last decade we have had many changes in tax policy for the state of Kansas. Because of this, we have had severe swings in our revenue levels. The state of Kansas is constitutionally required to balance our budget every year, and actions have been made to either use other funds such as the dedicated highway sales tax funds or raise sales taxes in general. Unfortunately, the policies that were passed raised the sales tax to qualify the state of Kansas as one of the highest states to tax food.

SB 76 lowers the sales tax on food by one percent for three years. The impact to our state's budget will be \$59.8 million in the first year and \$126.6 million in FY2021. There is no impact on local governments.

I am here to represent my constituents and others across the state that would like to see us lower the sales tax on food primarily because it penalizes people with lower incomes. I serve on one of the 41 food councils across the state, the Harvey County Food and Farm Council. We finished working on our two-year priorities and lowering the sales tax on food was at the top of our list. I also attend an inner-city church in Wichita and this is a priority for the Holy Savior Peace Church and the Social Justice Committee. This bill would assist us in our missions to provide food and meals to those in the community who do not always have the means to feed their family.

Thank you for considering SB 76. I ask that you recommend it favorably for passage and help lower the sales tax burden on all Kansans, but especially those with lower incomes trying to feed their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn McGinn'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C'.

Carolyn McGinn
Senator 31st District