

January 23, 2022

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Taxation Committee,

Kansas is a state that has always stood as a beacon of progress. We drew in settlers from the east who wanted a fresh start; many of whom were seeking financial prosperity. I'm sure you are very familiar with Kansas history, but I am looking to speak to you about HB 2487.

Food is something we all need to survive. Growing up in a middle-class neighborhood right outside of Hays in HD 111, I always worried about what we were having for dinner, but I never had to worry about if we were going to have dinner. That's because my family and I have been blessed enough to always have a full fridge. However many children statewide go hungry simply because parents can't afford to buy a simple necessity.

As you probably know HB 2487 would eliminate the sales tax on food. Right now the average Kansas family pays approximately 656 dollars to the state every year just from when they go grocery shopping. That may not seem like a lot, but to put it in perspective the average Kansan pays about 600 dollars a month in rent, and an average mortgage is about 1,100 dollars a month. By eliminating the sales tax on groceries we would not just be putting food on the table, but we would also be keeping families in their homes.

If we want to keep Kansas shining as a beacon of progress we need to eliminate the sales tax on groceries. We will not draw young people to move into our state as settlers once did with a 6.5 percent tax on groceries, and we definitely won't get young Kansans to stay. You have a choice to make this election year. Please vote for HB 2487 so that Kansas can continue to be a beacon of progress where people can grow and prosper.

Thank you,
Benjamin Dome
Student at Victoria High School