

Kansas AFL-CIO

2131 S.W. 36th St.

Topeka, KS 66611

785/267-0100

Fax 785/267-2775



President
Tony Spicer

Executive Secretary
Treasurer
Andy Sanchez

Executive Vice
President
John Nave

Executive Board

*Robert Bausch
Kevin Bayless
Kimberly Brewer
Brian Burnett
Joe Blanco
Robert Cammarn
Frank Carpenter
Roberto Delgado
Tony Delich
Mark Dominguez
Mark Elder
John Garretson
Kimberly Howard
Casey Jensen
Shaun Junkins
Mike Kane
Donna Lehane
Ron Perry
Dennis Phillips
Emil Ramirez
Carol Russell
Randy Stithem*

TESTIMONY (Written Only) House Committee on Taxation

By Andy Sanchez, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

KANSAS AFL-CIO

January 25, 2022

Chairman Smith and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to share our view on HB 2487, and as it relates to HB 2484. Both bills seek to make changes to state tax policy on food. It is an issue that many Kansans are struggling with these days. HB 2487 is distinct from HB 2484 though because it is aimed at groceries to include only consumables such as food, food ingredients, candy, bottled water and soft drinks. HB 2487 does not include extending the exemption from sales tax for prepared food that is primarily restaurant food.

On behalf of the 75,000 members we represent, we believe HB 2487 offers the most sound tax policy for our state. By reducing the sales tax on food outlined in HB 2487, we believe we can make good progress for working families. The Kansas AFL-CIO supports HB 2487 because it seeks to rectify our standing comparable to other states. By being one of just seven states in the U.S. that fully taxes groceries, and the second highest rate in the country at 6.5% we are set apart and not in a good way. Kansas can do better and we have to do better! The Kansas AFL-CIO works hard to improve the quality of life for Kansas' workers. We know, as lawmakers you have those same objectives of showing the rest of the country that Kansas can be your home, and you can support and raise family here. Adding the projected \$500 to the average everyday Kansas family of four can be the lifeblood to our economy at this unique time. It is not just relief, but it multiplies as its redistributed through our local communities and economies. These are real dollars.

Our members know that you must balance economic growth with efficiency when tax cuts are being considered to have the resources to still run government. The potential impact of HB 2484 could bring about such negative consequences as to hinder growth or return our state government to precarious state finances. We wholeheartedly support HB 2487 for the reasons outlined here and hope that you are encouraged to support the bill for passage. Thank you.

