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KANSAS NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / 715 SW 10TH AVENUE / TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612-1686

Tim Graham  
Written Testimony – Proponent  
House Committee on Taxation  
House Bill 2487  
January 25, 2022

Chairman Smith, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2487.

Kansas NEA supports reducing the sales tax burden on food for Kansas families for several reasons.

The sales tax is a regressive tax putting more pressure on low-income individuals and families than on the wealthy. This is particularly true when it comes to buying groceries – something everyone must do.

Kansas has second-highest food sales tax rates in the nation. As such, it drives the cost of foods up, putting additional pressure on family budgets.

We believe that eating habits are impacted by the food sales tax. We believe that dietary choices can change when the cost of food is lowered. It would be our hope that many people would choose healthier foods, such as fresh foods and vegetables, over processed products, if lowering the tax makes those items more affordable.

Nearly one in seven Kansans is food insecure. Eliminating the sales tax on food will put money back in the pockets of Kansans, providing greater stability for their families.

We are thankful the committee is prioritizing this proposed legislation, which would provide relief starting this summer – just before the start of the next school year. There is considerable bipartisan support for it, and there is enough of a budget surplus to make it sustainable so long as it remains in its current form.