

627 SW Topeka Blvd | Topeka, KS 66603



**Proponent Testimony on HB2487-Written Only
House Taxation Committee
January 25, 2022**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Mason, Ranking Member Gartner, and Members of the Committee, my name is Rachel Marsh, CEO of the Children's Alliance of Kansas. The Alliance is an association of 22 private, non-profit child welfare agencies that collectively provide a full array of services for children and families in child abuse and neglect prevention, family preservation, foster care, adoption, independent living, and parent, youth, and child skill-building, mentorship, mental health, and substance use treatment.

The Children's Alliance supports HB2487, which eliminates the state's sales tax on food and will assist Kansans in providing more affordable and nutritious foods for their families. Kansas currently has one of the highest food tax rates in the country. Low-income families carry the burden of this rate by having to pay a larger portion of their total income towards food. While all Kansas families would benefit from the elimination of the state sales tax on food, the Alliance recognizes the unique challenges low-income households face in providing their families with healthy and adequate amounts of food. Families experiencing financial challenges are more likely to face excessive stressors that could trigger disruption and need for assistance beyond dealing with food insecurity. Additionally, families involved in the child welfare system and those providing foster and kinship care would benefit from the elimination of food sales tax.

The Alliance works towards overall child wellbeing, and the elimination of high sales tax on food will help families ensure that their children have enough food to eat. We ask that you support HB2487 eliminating the sales tax on food. Thank you for your leadership and attention to the important steps required to ensure that Kansas families can afford food, one of the most basic of needs.

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Members of the Children's Alliance of Kansas:

The Bridge of Topeka, Topeka
CALM, Emporia
Cornerstones of Care, Overland Park
DCCCA, Lawrence
Eckerd, Wichita
EmberHope, Wichita
Florence Crittenton, Topeka
FosterAdopt Connect, Olathe
Foster the Cause, Topeka
Gathered, Derby
Great Circle, Lawrence

Kansas Children's Service League, Topeka
KVC Kansas, Olathe
KidsTLC, Olathe
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Mayetta
Restoration Family Services, Wichita
Saint Francis Ministries, Salina
TFI Family Services, Topeka
O'Connell Children's Shelter, Lawrence
The Villages, Topeka
Wichita Children's Home, Wichita
Zoe's House, Kansas City