

January 24, 2022

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President & CEO
United Way of Greater Topeka
Written proponent testimony on HB 2487
House Taxation Committee



United Way
of Greater Topeka

Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2487. United Way of Greater Topeka (UWGT) is a nonprofit organization serving Shawnee, Jefferson, and Jackson counties. In partnership with our donors and corporate and nonprofit partners, we strive to create an unbreakable network of support for a strong, healthy, and equitable community. We support interventions and policies that will help children and families thrive, not simply survive.

United Way of Greater Topeka supports tax policies that help all Kansans, particularly those who most need assistance. From the programs we support and the community we serve, we know that low- and moderate-income families are more likely to experience food insecurity, housing instability, and financial hardship.

In order to provide greater opportunities for these and other Kansas families, we strongly support House Bill 2487 and the elimination of the sales tax on food in Kansas.

The elimination of the food sales tax will directly impact these families by putting more money in their pockets. More money in their pockets can mean less reliance on emergency services. Money that would have gone to sales tax on food can instead be spent on much needed car repairs or medical bills. For a family of four, the average \$500 savings in grocery costs means they have a reliable car that takes them to and from work; it means they can buy the medicines necessary for them and their children and avoid costly emergency room visits; and it means that these families aren't just surviving but have the chance to thrive.

We ask for your support of House Bill 2487 to provide direct tax relief to all Kansas families. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have further questions, you can reach me at jlehnherr@unitedwaytopeka.org.

UNTIL THE FIGHT IS WON

Leave a legacy of impact.

Creating and cultivating an unbreakable network of support
for a strong, healthy and equitable community

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