

March 8, 2022

Georgia Masterson
Humanity House Foundation
110 East Street, Iola, Ks 66749
Opposition to Senate Bill 501—Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the Committee:

This testimony is submitted in opposition to Senate Bill 501.

I am currently Treasurer for Humanity House Foundation in Iola. We operate a food pantry and soup kitchen as well as providing financial assistance for utilities, rent and other vital living expenses. Prior to working here, I was an eligibility worker and supervisor for Kansas Department for Children and Families for over 30 years. With this experience I know what the adverse effect of this bill will be on the DCF staff as well as on the recipients of assistance.

If changes will require additional DCF staff to adequately administer their programs. Rather than saving Kansas money, it will cost taxpayers.

Our low-income citizens are already struggling. However, through our pantry we have seen that people do not take advantage of the help that is available if they don't need it. With the Federal increase in food assistance benefits, usage of our pantry has actually decreased since the COVID epidemic began. We ask our consumers if they receive food benefits and if not what has kept them from doing so. The applications currently being used are already overwhelming to many who would qualify, especially the elderly and disabled.

Please vote in opposition to this bill. Passage will be harmful to many struggling Kansans and to the tax payers who will foot the cost of the added unnecessary hoops put in place to prevent those who need help from getting it.

Sincerely,

Georgia Masterson
Treasurer
Humanity House Foundation