

March 8, 2022

William McReynolds
Udall UMC Food Pantry
10657 11th Rd
Udall, KS, 67146

Opposition to Senate Bill 501 - Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Dear Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the Committee:

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Udall UMC Food Pantry in opposition to Senate Bill 501.

I am a lifelong Kansan, retired school teacher and the head of the Udall UMC Food Pantry. Through my work with the people of Udall and its surrounding area, I have become aware of how many Kansans are struggling to survive financially. The people our food bank serves are predominately retired senior citizens, with the majority struggling with multiple health issues. These are people who have worked hard their entire lives, directly contributing to the Kansas economy.

Senate Bill 501 will cost the taxpayers of our state tens of millions of dollars, increasing our client's food insecurity. This in turn will increase people's usage of our state's charitable food banks. This will be a direct result of our state's family support programs becoming more costly and less effective. The states charitable food pantries are run by volunteers. We are still seeing record need after two years of the pandemic. The charitable sector is already overwhelmed and cannot meet all of the needs for our food insecure. This bill will not help poor Kansans, if fact they will be the ones who will be hurt the most by this bill.

We ask for your thoughtful consideration and vote in opposition to this bill.

Sincerely yours,

William McReynolds
Director of the Udall Food Bank