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Testimony to the House Committee on Taxation

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BILL NUMBER: HB2111

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, or NEUTRAL: Proponent

ORAL or WRITTEN ONLY TESTIMONY: Written only

Dear Chair Smith & members of the committee,

I strongly support HB2111 to eliminate the food tax, as well as the tax on feminine hygiene products and children's diapers. This bill would have an immediate and positive impact on the clients served by Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City (JFS), especially the approximately 2,700 individuals who utilize our pantry services every year.

JFS supports nearly 10,000 community members annually, many of whom are low-income children and families and older adults who manage to get by on small household budgets or fixed incomes. The high tax that Kansans pay on essential food and personal hygiene items stretches those budgets even further.

Eliminating the tax on food items, feminine hygiene products, and children's diapers immediately – rather than waiting until 2025 – would provide relief to Kansans who need to see their grocery bills go down now. Even our pantries have seen reduction in the number and variety of items on our shelves as donors – who contribute 57% of our pantry items – have struggled with the rising cost of common grocery items and have had to reduce their charitable donations accordingly.

Kansas is in a strong financial position, with a robust reserve fund. Responsibly reducing the tax burden on residents by immediately eliminating the tax on these essential items now would be a blessing to Kansans who can't wait three years to see the relief on their grocery bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Don Goldman

JFS Executive Director and CEO

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