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## **Unified Government Public Health Department**

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Opponent Written-Only Testimony :: HB 2140

Ashley Lause with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS Public Health Department

House Committee on Welfare Reform • February 7, 2023

Chairman Averkamp and Members of the Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this topic. I am writing in opposition to the HB 2140 bill. I am a Dietitian at the Unified Government Public Health Department and Manage the WIC program. I am interested in this bill because I believe in food access for all and know this is an important public health issue.

I am opposing this bill because it would require extra barriers to those seeking food assistance and in turn increase food insecurity and create a greater impact on public health. Those that are seeking food assistance programs are low income and are already facing many barriers to making a living for themselves. Food assistance programs are there to help these individuals fill the gaps as they are trying to work and make ends meet. When we add extra barriers to them, that only increases the problem and in turn has poor outcomes on their health. Please consider the impact this change would have on food insecurity, which is what food assistance programs aim to decrease.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and I hope we can work together to decrease barriers to accessing food assistance programs.

Thank you,

Ashley Lause, MS, RD, LD  
Wyandotte County WIC Program