



March 19, 2017

Ashley Jones-Wisner
State Policy Director, KC Healthy Kids
Sub for Sub SB 95 Testimony for House Health and Human Services Committee

Chairman Hawkins and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Sub for Sub Senate Bill 95. KC Healthy Kids is a Kansas City area non profit focused on reducing childhood obesity by shaping policies to improve access to healthy food. We believe safety net programs like SNAP and TANF are critical, particularly for the health of Kansas children. The changes in this bill will have a significant economic impact on the most vulnerable of Kansans, encourage thriving local economies and healthy Kansas kids.

Acceptance of voice signature

Currently, community partners such as Harvesters assist individuals over the phone using the online application portal. Community partners who are assisting individuals in remote rural areas or elderly or homebound individuals who are not able to physically visit a community partner site must fill out a paper application by hand. The community partner must then mail it to the applicant to sign and attach the necessary documentation. This process is needlessly time consuming. The bill would provide the ability to submit telephonic signatures, which would significantly improve the Food Assistance application process for applicants and for the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

For these reasons, we respectfully request the committee support this bill, as doing so will have a significant economic impact on the most vulnerable of Kansans.