



January 31, 2017

Ashley Jones-Wisner  
State Policy Director, KC Healthy Kids  
HB 2143

Chairman Campbell:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2143. KC Healthy Kids is a Kansas City area non profit focused on reducing childhood obesity by shaping policies to improve access to healthy food. Our Farm to School Academy works with district level staff to procure local food. Across the Kansas City metro area, KCHK works to ensure local, state and federal dollars for school meals supports Kansas farmers.

School districts face barriers when they attempt to procure local food. Language in this bill would add an additional barrier, meaning less funding from district budgets will go to Kansas producers. Shifting procurement to the state level would also limit local districts ability to serve the unique needs of their communities. In addition, this bill could disrupt momentum and contract planning between districts and farmers working to prepare for future growing seasons.

Food service directors across Kansas have stated the benefits of Farm to School include the serving of more nutritious food and children learning the source of food they eat. This program results in improved quality of food served while at the same time supports Kansas farmers.

KCHK respectfully request the committee oppose House Bill 2143.