



Kansas Association of Local Health Departments  
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Healthy People Build Strong Communities

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**House Taxation Committee  
Testimony on HB2261  
February 13, 2019**

Dear Chairperson Johnson and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2261.

The State of Kansas has one of the highest rates of sales tax on food in the nation, and the rate is significantly higher than the rates of all bordering states. Taxing necessities, like food, places an unfair burden on low-income Kansans and may limit their ability to make healthy food choices.

To ensure healthy communities, public health departments focus on prevention of chronic disease and promotion of healthy behaviors, including making healthy food choices. Nutrition and access to health foods are key public health priorities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). "Good nutrition is essential in keeping current and future generations of Americans healthy across the lifespan. . . . The availability of healthy, affordable foods contributes to a person's diet and risk of related chronic diseases." Reducing the sales tax on food ensures healthy food is more affordable for Kansans.

The Kansas Association of Local Health Departments has identified reduction or elimination of the sales tax on food as a key policy priority. As such, we urge you to support this bill.

Respectfully,

Michelle Ponce  
Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Local Health Departments

The Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) is a nonprofit association dedicated to strengthening local health departments for the purpose of improving and protecting the health of all Kansans. KALHD's membership consists of 94 of the 100 local health departments in Kansas



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.