

Andy Hubbard, I reside in House district 88 and Senate District 87.

I am an addict.

I am a three-time convicted felon.

My KDOC #102937

As of me writing this, I have 1230 days clean. After twenty years of meth use, from the ages of fourteen to thirty-four, countless jails, institutions, and damn near death, I scrapped together a shred of will to live.

I changed my playground, my playmates.

I somehow got a bed at an understaffed, underfunded treatment facility, hosed there for an inadequate amount of days. Jumping thru hoops in the system to get proper mental health medications, not having enough time for my body to adjust before I “graduated” and back to the mean streets.

Facing the hurdles that many felons face.

Barriers in employment, housing, the lack of transportation, or even a support system.

I still kept trying to pull myself up by these proverbial bootstraps we all keep hearing about.

I received a job thru a temp agency making a whopping \$9 an hour. Found housing in a sober living facility, which was located in what the legislature lovingly refers to as a “food desert”.

Some weeks the only meal I would eat everyday, would be at the Lords Diner after working a full shift on an empty belly. There would be times I would have to decide to call in at work to wait all day at the Salvation Army for a box of food that would last for two days.

The reason the State of Kansas wouldn't help? Because I suffer from addiction and have been labeled a felon by them and undeserving of food.

Now, I am a white male, albeit a queer one, and I am in a place of privilege. With that privilege is the ability to recognize that these rules and laws are rooted in white nationalism and I am nothing but a causality caught in the crossfire of your oppression.

This law is just another knee on the necks of communities of color. After redlining, over-policing, and then jailing generations of them and branding them “drug felons”, and now have the nerve to tell them they don't deserve food.

We know the lack of food becomes a mental health issue.

We understand when people are hungry they make irrational decisions.

Growling bellies do not stop drug possession, addiction nor does it deter crime. In fact, it does the opposite.

Stand up. Say that every Kansan, no matter where they are at in this journey called life, that they are deserving of access to food.

I implore you to repeal the ban on felons receiving SNAP benefits.