

El Centro Inc.

Written Testimony

Written Testimony to House Committee on Taxation in
support of HB 2711

Mayte Alexandra Diaz Marquez
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Testimony in support of: House Bill 2711

House Committee on Taxation

Chairman Smith and Committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2711, a bill that works towards redressing food insecurity and supports the most vulnerable Kansans.

My name is Mayte Alexandra Diaz Marquez I live in De Soto, Kansas. I work in Olathe and Kansas City, Kansas, for a local non-profit organization called El Centro Inc. Throughout the 45 years that El Centro Inc. has been in existence, the agency has established deeply rooted bonds and trust with the Latino community in the Metropolitan area. The agency serves anyone that walks through the door but emphasizes service among the Latino communities because of the lack of Spanish speaking agencies in the Metro. These roots have allowed me to work with some of the most vulnerable communities in the Metro. It is thanks to this close work with the community that I have witnessed firsthand the strain that many of our clients endure to put food on the table. Throughout the pandemic El Centro delivered produce to our most impoverished clients. When our new Olathe building opened, we established a collaboration with First Christian Church directly across the street to distribute fresh produce to our clients and guests of the food pantry every week. I personally deliver weekly groceries from this collaboration to clients with disabilities whose benefits are not enough to sustain their pantries; older adults who can no longer drive; domestic violence and human trafficking survivors who are struggling to feed their children and get back to stability and so many others who would benefit from HB 2711. The elimination of State sales tax on food benefits the most vulnerable Kansans. It is a step in the right direction towards redressing food insecurity among Kansans.

I urge you to make the right decision and pass HB 2711. Thank you for your consideration. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at mdiazcentro@gmail.com

Thank you,

Mayte A. Diaz Marquez