

DATE: March 9, 2022

NAME: Mary Jane Hoffer

ORGANIZATION: Lecompton United Methodist Church Gods healthy choice food pantry

ADDRESS: 402 Elmore Street, Lecompton, KS 66

Opposition to Senate Bill 501—Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the Committee:

A SENTENCE ABOUT WHO YOU ARE, SUCH AS:

- This testimony is submitted on behalf of Lecompton United Methodist Church Gods healthy choice food pantry in opposition to Senate Bill 501.
- I am submitting this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 501.

A FEW SENTENCES ABOUT WHY YOU CARE. INCLUDE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE OR WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT THE DEPTH OF FOOD INSECURITY IN KANSAS.

- I am a lifelong Kansan and a retired from the state of Kansas, I volunteer with my local food pantry where I see. . . all of our help is volunteers, no paid staff.
- Our numbers climb each month of families/ persons needing help with food.
- I am in charge of our food pantry and I know how hard Kansans are working to make ends meet.
- We are seeing more families each month, some who have never had to come to a pantry for food assistance before. Times are hard and all are struggling to try and make ends meet.

A FEW SENTENCES ABOUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT THIS BILL WILL HAVE. FEEL FREE TO USE ANY OF THE TALKING POINTS IN THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS TO INFORM YOUR COMMENTS.

CONCLUDING SENTENCE OR TWO, HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF YOUR OVERARCHING CONCERNS, SUCH AS:

I/WE ask for your thoughtful consideration and vote in opposition to this bill that will

- cost Kansas taxpayers tens of millions of dollars, increase food insecurity among working poor Kansas families and put additional pressures on community food pantries trying to help their neighbors.
- bloat state government, increase food insecurity and overwhelm the charitable food pantries in Kansas.
- make these important family support programs costlier and less effective, further overburdening Kansas' charitable food pantries.
- We operate strictly on donations. We are a small community and struggle to make our dollars stretch to serve these families.
- I would hope you would work to make it easier for the food pantries to serve families in need, and I am not seeing any that are not in need of some food assistance, rather than harder or perhaps to have to close.
- In the blink of an eye anyone could be standing in line to get food for their families. Or other type of assistance. It is not easy for these families to have to admit that they need this assistance. From young families single parent to senior

