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Written Testimony - Opponent  
House Bill 2140  
House Committee on Welfare Reform  
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Chairman Averkamp, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of House Bill 2140.

Kansas NEA believes there is a strong correlation between poverty and lack of achievement in education. As such, we support efforts that work to combat the effects of poverty, including access to food assistance programs. Additionally, we believe that legislation passed by the Kansas Legislature should truly reflect Kansas values.

House Bill 2140 imposes additional limitations on SNAP benefits, making it more difficult for Kansas families to receive assistance to meet their basic needs during times of hardship. When the adults in children's lives are in distress, the children often bring that distress to school with them. This affects their ability to learn as well as interact with their peers. Further, children cannot learn well when they are hungry.

To make matters worse, this bill puts the federal dollars that help fund these assistance programs at risk, jeopardizing access to nutrition assistance benefits to nearly 100,000 Kansas families.

Kansas NEA urges the committee to vote no on House Bill 2140.