



February 9, 2024

Representative Francis Averkamp
Room 187-N, Kansas State Capitol
300 SW Tenth Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1504

Re: Opposition to HB 2673

Dear Chairman Averkamp,

On behalf of the National Confectioners Association (NCA), I am writing to express our opposition to HB 2673. This bill requires the state to seek a waiver from the US Department of Agriculture to exclude candy from the list of eligible foods for SNAP recipients.

NCA is the trade organization that advances, protects, and promotes chocolate, candy, gum, and mints, and the companies that make these special treats. Confections are produced in all 50 states, creating jobs for approximately 57,000 workers in more than 1,000 manufacturing facilities across the country. Nearly 700,000 jobs in agriculture, retail, transportation, and other industries rely in part on the sale of confections for their livelihood. For every job created by confectionery companies, another eleven are supported in related industries. In Kansas, the confectionery industry provides over \$307 million in economic output, pays nearly \$781 million in wages, directly employs more than 1,780 people, and indirectly supports more than 5,400 additional jobs.

We believe that restricting purchasing choice for SNAP recipients is a misguided policy approach that does not solve the important nutritional issues that Americans face today. The reality is that SNAP recipients make the same food choices as all other families. Data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that SNAP and non-SNAP households' expenditure patterns households are nearly identical.

American consumers, including SNAP recipients, enjoy chocolate and candy two to three times per week, averaging about 40 calories per day and just about one teaspoon of added sugar per day from confectionery items.

Efforts such as this to limit SNAP purchases hinder food choice and add additional complexity and compliance burdens to both retailers and consumers. Rather than restricting consumer choice, NCA believes that incentive-based approaches deliver better outcomes. For example, the USDA's [Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program \(GusNIP\)](#) supports health and reduces food insecurity by increasing the purchase and consumption of fruits and vegetables by SNAP recipients.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the legislature to achieve the right balance between consumer choice and a comprehensive approach to nutrition education. Unfortunately, we believe that HB 2673 is the wrong approach to a complex issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian M. McKeon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B' and a distinct 'M'.

Brian M. McKeon

Senior Vice President, Public Policy
National Confectioners Association

cc: Members of the House Committee on Welfare Reform