

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTAIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
300 S.W. TENTH AVENUE  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
(785) 296-7658  
lauren.bohi@house.ks.gov



DISTRICT ADDRESS  
15050 W. 138TH ST. #2791  
OLATHE, KANSAS 66063

**LAUREN BOHI**  
15TH DISTRICT

Chair Estes and Members of the House Committee on Education,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 2637.

House Bill 2637, regarding The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), brings breakfast and lunch to schools in a way that reduces stigma and increases beneficial outcomes for students. The practicality of this solution begs the question of why haven't more districts already taken advantage of the CEP program and I believe this bill solves some of the school districts and communities' concerns.

Traditionally, to qualify for the Free or Reduced lunch an application would need to be filled out and now with this program entire schools or districts can receive FREE BREAKFAST and LUNCH in high poverty areas. Some may question why a Johnson County Representative would champion a Free School Lunch program. My district and, I believe, my state will benefit from it greatly. In my district alone 5 of the 6 elementary schools are Title 1.

As I mentioned in my testimony for another committee last week, I was the Nutritional Director for the last years of my time at the Kansas City Urban Youth Center afterschool program. I went through training from Harvesters and was able to work with other community partners to make sure we could offer the students nutritional snacks and dinner.

I urge this committee to pass this bill out favorably as this bill maintains local control but also encourages the school districts across the state to offer free school breakfasts and lunches in the communities that could most benefit from it.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Bohi, FNTP, MRHP

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