

Testimony of Lindsey Hatfield, Hutchinson, KS
In Support of Funding Reduced-Price Copays

Chairman Goetz and Members of the House Committee on K-12 Education Budget:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of funding the reduced-price copay in the KS budget. I have a personal connection with this issue and would love the opportunity to tell you why I support funding reduced-price copays in our budget.

I was raised by a single mother, who consistently worked multiple jobs to provide for me and my two older sisters. We received reduced-price lunches in school and even though it was helpful to have a lower cost lunch for all three of us, it would have been incredible if those meals could have been covered by the state of KS. Our family struggled when she was a single mother, and so many families today struggle to put food on their tables.

I am a mother of two school-aged children, and my husband works as a para educator in their school. We see firsthand how food insecurity has affected children in our school system. Food insecurity and hunger make it extremely hard for kids to focus and learn in class. We need to INVEST in the children of Kansas, and I know that if we eliminate the reduced-price copay for schools, we will be taking a huge step in ending child hunger.

Please fund this budget line item and provide the much needed extra help that these families and most importantly, these children need.

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to support this proposal.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lindsey Hatfield', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.