



January 30, 2026

Elizabeth Keever, Chief Resource Officer, Harvesters—The Community Food Network

On behalf of: Harvesters—The Community Food Network, Kansas Food Bank and Second Harvest Community Food Bank

Testimony in opposition to SB 428:

Chairman Erickson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 428. Harvesters—The Community Food Network, The Kansas Food Bank and Second Harvest Community Food Bank writes in opposition to this bill due to serious concerns about its impact on Kansas families' safety, trust in public systems, and access to nutrition assistance.

Collectively, Kansas Food Banks and our partner agencies help Kansans apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) every day. We work with families, seniors, and those with disabilities who are already navigating food insecurity, economic instability, and fear about providing personal information. Any policy that raises concerns about how applicant data may be shared or used threatens to further erode trust in SNAP and could deter eligible households and individuals from applying. Kansas cannot afford to lose more people from SNAP participation—especially at a time when food insecurity remains high and charitable food assistance cannot fill the gap left by reduced access to federal nutrition programs. For every one meal a food bank provides, SNAP provides nine.

In March 2025, the USDA requested not only personally identifiable information for individuals enrolled in SNAP, but also for those who applied and were denied. If the purpose of the USDA's request is to ensure program integrity, personally identifiable information for denied applicants is unnecessary and instead creates significant risk of the misuse of Kansans information and data.

For more than 60 years, since the creation of SNAP, the USDA has never required this level of broad, personally identifiable data from states. Federal law has long limited the USDA's access to sensitive personal information, and oversight has historically been conducted using anonymized data, data samples, and robust state-level quality control processes,

including those already in place in Kansas. In fact, the USDA has repeatedly pointed to SNAP's quality control system as one of the strongest among all federal benefit programs. SB 428 represents a significant departure from decades of established practice, conflicts with longstanding federal law, and exposes the State of Kansas to unnecessary legal risk.

Harvesters, The Kansas Food Bank and Second Harvest Community Food Bank urges lawmakers to consider the chilling effect SB 428 could have on SNAP participation and the real harm it could cause to Kansas families, seniors, those with disabilities and communities. SNAP is one of the most effective tools we have to fight hunger—and food banks cannot replace it. Policies that undermine trust in this program ultimately increase hunger and hardship across our state.