



February 15th, 2017

Communities Creating Opportunities
Proponent
SCR 1604

Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1604. Communities Creating Opportunities – CCO is an independent non-partisan community based organization committed to moving human dignity to the center of public life through the power of people, culture change and organizing

One of CCO's primary focus for the next two years is on increasing health equity and overall improvement of the health of the people in Kansas. This certainly includes support of policies aimed at increasing access to healthy food and reducing childhood obesity.

We also believe that Kansas' state tax on food puts an unfair burden on low income families, hurts rural grocers and their employees, and drives shoppers across state lines to buy healthy food.

Of the state's 105 counties, 40 share at least one border with neighboring states. Colorado and Nebraska exempt all food sales from taxation, and Missouri's state food sales taxes are only 1.225%. Oklahoma, like Kansas, does not exempt food sales taxes, but has a lower state sales tax of 4.5%

Lowering the sales tax on food would benefit the Kansas economy while putting dollars back into the pockets of Kansas families who need it most. For these reasons, we join others in asking the committee to support SCR 1604.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our concern and support.