

3/7/2022

Deborah Dawkins
East Topeka Senior Center
432 SE Norwood Street
Topeka, KS 66607
Opposition to Senate Bill 501—Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the Committee:

A SENTENCE ABOUT WHO YOU ARE, SUCH AS:

- This testimony is submitted on behalf of East Topeka Senior Center in opposition to Senate Bill 501.
- I am submitting this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 501.

A FEW SENTENCES ABOUT WHY YOU CARE. INCLUDE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE OR WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT THE DEPTH OF FOOD INSECURITY IN KANSAS.

- As a senior center located in a neighborhood that would be considered a food desert we see lots of families, including seniors who are raising grandchildren, who are struggling to stretch their food dollars.

We feel that placing an extra step of verification more frequently places an undue burden on needy families and will only add to their frustration and does not add anything to alleviating their problem of hunger.

WE ask for your thoughtful consideration and vote in opposition to this bill that will

- cost Kansas taxpayers tens of millions of dollars, increase food insecurity among working poor Kansas families and put additional pressures on community food pantries trying to help their neighbors.
- bloat state government, increase food insecurity and overwhelm the charitable food pantries in Kansas.
- make these important family support programs more costly and less effective, further overburdening Kansas' charitable food pantries.