

March 8, 2022

Linda Wyman

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Opposition to Senate Bill 501—Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the Committee:

I work closely with the local food pantry and have some knowledge about the poor and underserved in my community. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 501.

It seems to me that this bill would be more of a burden for those very people we would hope to be assisting with food and medical service. I am a food bank volunteer and I know how hard Kansans are working to make ends meet. Any program that offers free product or service will be abused. Having those most in need of the products and services provide more paperwork hardly seems like a productive route to solving any fraud problems.

I understand your interest in eliminating fraud in our assistance programs, but I feel you should spend more time and discussion in finding a way that does not burden those most in need, cause extra paperwork for the food pantries providing the assistance, and increase the cost to taxpayers. Therefore, I am asking for your thoughtful consideration and vote in opposition to this bill that will cost Kansas taxpayers tens of millions of dollars, bloat state government, increase food insecurity and overwhelm the charitable food pantries in Kansas.

Sincerely,

Linda Wyman