

March 7, 2022

Karen A Springer
Reach Out Food Pantry
Prescott, Kansas 66767

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

Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the committee:

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Reach Out Food Pantry at Prescott, Kansas.

I have lived in Kansas most of my life and I retired from the postal service 10 years ago. I have volunteered at our food pantry since retirement and have been the director for the last 6 years. We live in an area of Kansas where there is a lot of elderly and low-income families. Our pantry is run completely by volunteers and on donations.

The majority of Kansas' charitable food pantries are run by volunteers and they are still seeing record need after two years of the pandemic. The charitable sector is already overwhelmed and cannot meet the needs of even more food insecure Kansans if SB 501 goes into effect and families lose the SNAP benefits for which they are eligible.

We ask for your thoughtful consideration and vote in opposition to this bill that will bloat state government, increase food insecurity, and overwhelm the charitable food pantries in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.
Karen A Springer