



Healthy Communities W Y A N D O T T E

February 1, 2018

Irene Caudillo
HCW Policy Committee Chair
Proponent
SCR 1604

Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1604. Healthy Communities Wyandotte supports this resolution because Wyandotte County consistently ranks low for health outcomes in the state of Kansas, and access to healthy and affordable food plays a significant role in the health of our residents.

13% of Wyandotte County adults have a diabetes diagnosis, which is significantly higher than the 10% average for the rest of the state. This, combined with a high rate of low-income low-access areas throughout the county, means that our community struggles to get healthy, affordable food on a daily basis, and the high sales tax on food contributes to these disparities.

Additionally, we are located right next to the Missouri state line, and our community loses thousands of dollars that could be cycling back into our local economy when Wyandotte County residents shop in Missouri, which has a 1.2% state sales tax rate on food. That problem is not unique to Wyandotte County—here are many communities around Kansas similarly losing money to neighboring states like Colorado, Nebraska, or Oklahoma.

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. Middle- and low-income families are hit the hardest by regressive taxes like sale tax on food, and these taxes increase health disparities by making foods more expensive. For these reasons, we strongly urge the committee to support SCR 1604.

Sincerely,

Irene Caudillo