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Kansas Food Bank

Second Harvest Community Food Bank

Testimony re: House Bill 2627 – Welfare Reform Committee

Chairman Awerkamp and members of the Committee:

This testimony is submitted on behalf of Harvesters—The Community Food Network, the Kansas Food Bank and Second Harvest Community Food Bank, which together serve the hungry and food insecure in all 105 counties in the state. Last year, our networks of charitable food pantries distributed more than 46 million pounds of food to those in need in Kansas, from our smallest rural communities to major metropolitan areas.

We are testifying as neutral on HB 2627, which is a reorganization of the current statute known as the HOPE Act. While we are not opposed to moving the text around, which is what is being considered today, we are opposed to the Hope Act in its entirety because at its foundation it harms our most vulnerable neighbors.

From the lifetime SNAP ban for drug felons to the prohibition on broad-based categorical eligibility that prevents Kansas from modifying the asset test. From the prohibition of the work reporting requirement waiver during times of high unemployment to the SNAP child support enforcement requirement for custodial parents. These and so many of the policies being “reorganized” are misguided and harmful to Kansans who need our help. We would prefer the HOPE Act be struck down in its entirety.