

February 17, 2016

HOUSE BILL No. 2595
Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christianne Miles, of Treat America Foodservice, We are members of the Mid America Merchandising Association, and the Kansas Restaurant Association. We are here today in **support House Bill 2595.**

MAMA is an affiliated state council of the National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA), representing hundreds of small businesses that provide vending and refreshment services to thousands of citizens in Kansas and Missouri each day and employ hundreds of workers in these states.

Our members include vending and refreshment services operators and suppliers, brokers, machine manufacturers and distributors throughout the state. This bill would benefit our members by reserving regulation of nutrition labeling for food and nonalcoholic beverages to the state legislature. Having a statewide nutrition labeling standard is beneficial to our members as many operators have locations in different cities and counties and having local authorities impose their own guidelines and standards would place a tremendous burden on our members. Vending operators would need to warehouse and transport more product with different labels that meet the local requirements. This would decrease efficiency and add to product cost.

In addition, it would also place a burden on manufacturers and distributors that would be faced with having to have different product packaging for each of their items sold to comply with local rules.

These same burdens would be placed on the many small business Restaurant operators that so many of our State's workers rely on for employment.

We urge the committee to vote AYE on HB 2595.