



Testimony in opposition to House Bill 2595
Hilary Gee, Kansas Government Relations Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

February 17, 2016

Chairman Hutton and members of the Committee:

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), the advocacy affiliate of The American Cancer Society (ACS) advocates for public policies that will help reduce the risk of cancer including those which promote healthy eating. ACS CAN opposes House Bill 2595.

For the majority of Americans who do not use tobacco, the greatest behavioral risk factors for cancer are weight, diet and physical activity levels. In fact, **one-quarter to one-third of all cancers are tied to poor nutrition, physical inactivity or excess weight.** House Bill 2595 prevents local communities from taking action to improve nutrition and combat obesity.

It is important for local governments to have the opportunity to put their own innovative initiatives in place that have the potential to improve nutrition, increase physical activity, and reduce obesity in order to improve the health of residents. Just as is the case with tobacco control, local control is essential for good public health

ACS CAN recommends that public, private and community organizations work together at all levels of government to implement policy and environmental changes that increase access to affordable, healthy foods and decrease access to and marketing of foods with low nutritional value.

Healthy eating is a key part of cancer prevention. Kansas communities need more tools to ensure we all live long, healthy lives – not fewer tools. Instead of preempting local action on nutrition labeling or advertising, Kansas should be working to support and promote healthy eating. We respectfully request that you oppose House Bill 2595.