



Sunflower Foundation

HEALTH CARE FOR KANSANS

Testimony to The House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee In Opposition to HB 2595

Feb. 17, 2016

Representative Hutton and members of the committee,

For 15 years, Sunflower Foundation has worked closely with communities across the state. After partnering with hundreds of towns in almost 90 counties, we've learned that local units of governments and nonprofits are often best positioned to make decisions regarding the needs and desires of their own residents.

We are thus opposed to House Bill 2595 and the concept of giving the state the sole authority to determine what information is shared about the nutritional value of foods and beverages. At present, local governments are responding to the preferences of their constituents by increasing access to nutritional information. If the state intentionally blocks access to information that local communities believe is important, consumers are left to make less informed decisions and the rights of the public are eroded.

Kansas consumers want nutritional information so that they may choose healthy options for themselves and their families. Voters have made this clear with the recent increase in publicly appointed food policy councils across the state. These local councils work to support a local food economy that enhances access, choice and information to the consumer – with the benefit of supporting local producers and retailers. HB 2595 would hamstring the efforts of these food policy councils, damaging not only local voter decisions, but potentially the local economies as well.

As a healthcare foundation that believes in the power of local communities to improve their own health, we are opposed to HB 2595. We respectfully request that the committee oppose this bill and support the rights of the local Kansas voter and consumer.

Sincerely,

Billie Hall
President and CEO
Sunflower Foundation

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The mission of the Sunflower Foundation is "serving as a catalyst to improve the health of Kansans," which it supports through a program of grants and related activities. Learn more at SunflowerFoundation.org/about.