



February 11, 2016

Re: Letter of Opposition to HB 2595

Chairman Hutton and members of the Committee:

Shawnee Mission Health's community health improvement plan identifies expanding education around healthy eating and nutrition as our first priority. We know most all chronic and costly health problems we treat are directly related or impacted by poor nutrition and obesity.

In addition to Shawnee Mission Health's initiatives, we are actively involved with several other collaborations and community strategies within our community to address nutrition and obesity in Kansas. HB 2595 will significantly curtail the momentum and progress these initiatives have experienced.

Identified in Shawnee Mission Health's recent household door-to-door study we found only 14% indicated they are eating the recommended number of fruits and vegetables. When our respondents were asked why not, 27% reported lack of availability and 40% indicated cost of fresh fruits and vegetables were a barrier to eating fresh produce.

Support is necessary in the work we are doing to develop and implement effective solutions to address the most pressing public health concerns in Kansas today, including diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and other chronic diseases associated with obesity and poor nutrition. If this legislation were to become law, it would negate the capacity that exists in our local communities to develop evidence-based strategies to address these issues.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the committee oppose HB 2595.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Jeanette Metzler'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Jeanette Metzler

Community Benefit Manager

Email: [Jeanette.Metzler@shawneemission.org](mailto:Jeanette.Metzler@shawneemission.org)