



Chairman Hutton and Committee Members,

The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) is a professional association for Kansas's public health practitioners, professionals and advocates. Founded in 1920, KPHA is the largest and oldest public health organization in the state. Our mission is to promote and improve population health in Kansas. As such, we would like to address how HB 2595 would affect public health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention count 10 Essential Public Health Services public health entities should be performing in all communities to ensure a sound public health infrastructure. HB2595 would preempt local entities from performing fully half of these services, including:

1. Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems.
2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community.
3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues.
4. Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems.
5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.

Access to nutritious food, be it geographically or economically, is a public health issue because it is a major contributor to whether or not a Kansan lives sick and dies early from a chronic disease. Chronic diseases account for 8 of the top 10 leading causes of death in Kansas and the vast majority of state spending on health care. In their current Chronic Disease State Plan, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment estimates that, of the \$26 billion the state spent on health care in 2010, \$20 billion could be attributed to treating chronic diseases.

Obesity, along with physical inactivity and tobacco use, are the major contributing factors to one's development of a chronic disease. Sixty percent of Kansans—more than half—are overweight or obese. To preempt local communities from addressing an issue as massive and multi-factorial as nutritious food access is like taking away the snow plows and expecting a community to get back to work after a storm. It could be done, but not efficiently or effectively.

The health of Kansans has not been moving in the right direction. According to a 2015 America's Health Rankings report, Kansas dropped to the 26th healthiest state in the nation, down from 8th place in 1991.

Given the state's budget shortfalls and increasing cost of health care, we believe local work around these issues should be encouraged, not discouraged. The Kansas Public Health Association encourages the committee to consider the broad health implications of HB 2595.

Erica Anderson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Anderson".

President
Kansas Public Health Association