



**Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association
Jason Watkins
Testimony Supporting HB 2595
House Commerce Committee
Wednesday February 17, 2016**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 2595.

The Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association represents members who employ over 137,000 Kansans. We are one of the primary tax collectors for the state, collecting annually more than \$424 million as an industry.

The KRHA supports HB 2595 because we believe this legislation is a positive and proactive step in ensuring that Kansas has a uniform and statewide approach to managing food labeling, nutritional guidelines and consumer incentive items. HB 2595 very simply reserves these decisions for the Legislature.

Preventing a patchwork of varying and differing regulations by multiple jurisdictions pertaining to food labels, nutritional guidelines and consumer incentive items creates a stable marketplace for both consumers and business owners.

The KRHA believes that local bans and/or specific labeling requirements related to trans fats, sodium etc. along with local limitations on the size of sodas and french-fries and prohibitions against toys in a chain's value meal creates a market that is confusing for consumers and costly for business owners.

Nothing in the legislation restricts the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture from enforcing the regulations in the Kansas food code. Our businesses rely on the uniform application of the Kansas food code for predictability and our customers rely on it for the assurance of a safe product. Thank you for your consideration and support for HB 2595.