



**AMERICANS FOR  
PROSPERITY®**

**KANSAS**

February 16, 2016

## **Testimony in Support of HB 2595**

Chairman Hutton and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity activists across the state, thank you for this opportunity to voice our support for HB 2595.

Kansas has more than 700 municipal and county governments that currently have authority to impose local ordinances on the labeling and nutritional information requirements for retail and vending food sales. HB 2595 steers policy away from a development of a balkanized series of different food sales requirements and restrictions.

HB 2595 recognizes that consistency in labeling requirements across the state will provide uniformity that is in the best interest of consumers and the food sales industry. Consumers will know exactly what to look for whether they are eating in Atchison or Elkhart. Restaurant operators will not be faced with a maze of different requirements and restrictions. A restaurateur with multiple restaurants in the Kansas City metro area could have more than a half-dozen sets of regulations to sort through.

This bill in no way interferes with FDA and food labeling and food safety rules, and gives statewide authority to the Legislature to impose labeling requirement and restrictions on sales of food items. However, municipalities do not have the resources and expertise of federal and state agencies to fully investigate and implement such policies. Moreover, because of the proximity of cities and mobility of consumers in major Kansas metro areas, labeling ordinances enacted by one municipality in expectation of a public health benefit would have minimal impact.

AFP Kansas supports HB 2595 as an example of legislation that will simplify rules and regulations for consumers and business owners. In particular, small restaurants and food trucks that could face a maze of different and even conflicting local food labeling requirements and sales restrictions.

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