

Food, Drugs, and the Administration thereof are very important topics to me. I have been involved in restaurant management for 16 years and have been participating in this legislative committee process for over 10 years trying to get cannabis, the natural plant, off the Kansas controlled substances list. I support this bill on many fronts.

1. It proposes good stewardship of taxpayer money.
2. It promotes healthy choices
3. It disregards certain elements of corporate lobbying
4. It eliminates some hypocrisy

The use of taxpayer money for those in true need must be strictly scrutinized because if that taxpayer money is going toward consumable substances that are inflammatory, cancer-causing or that may cause deterioration in well-being, it is wasteful and produces harm. [1, 2, 3, 5, 6]

Eliminating “foods” (substances for human consumption that do not promote healthy physiological and/or behavioral function) will lead to a healthier citizenry which will help mitigate inflammation and disease, both physically and mentally. This also may eliminate taxpayer-funded needs in medical, psychiatric and surgical spending, including both typical and atypical pharmaceutical drug prescribing. [6]

Professional lobbyists can be persuasive and crony capitalism has no place under this dome, especially in the taxpayer-funded public assistance arena. [1, 3, 5]

The hypocrisy of allowing children or adults to consume certain drugs (psycho-actives), food-drugs or drug-foods like inflammatory causing synthetically refined white powdery sugar, and refined sugar products [1] or caffeine products like energy drinks with nutrition labels [2] while continuing to prohibit certain naturally occurring substances that have excellent protein profiles and anti-inflammatory properties, is wrong. [4]

There is also a discussion to be had about synthetic additives, coloring dyes, trans fats etc. which should be considered as possible amendments to further eliminate other potentially harmful human consumables.

I also would like to see the disqualifications and drug treatment/drug testing requirements be removed for natural occurring substance felonies like possession and cultivation of cannabis regardless of its status as a controlled substance. It is tragic that on one hand a family can buy seeds and plants with public assistance but if it is cannabis, they are prohibited from growing it without a license, yet still can **buy** imported cannabis seeds, flour, oil etc., [4] for consumption. This is yet another misguided safety over liberty issue where the government keeps it static overreach.

The issue beyond candy and soft drinks is the difference between natural and synthetic substances and I believe we all need to wake up and smell the legal addictive stimulant and forge a better path. One that defends the individual’s natural and constitutional rights and one that promotes life by promoting natural options.

This bill represents a worthwhile first step in the prevention of disease and reigning in the waste of taxpayer money when it comes to public nutrition assistance. I support this bill.

1. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2548255> Kearns CE, Schmidt LA, Glantz SA. Sugar Industry and Coronary Heart Disease Research: A Historical Analysis of Internal Industry Documents. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2016;176(11):1680–1685. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2016.5394
2. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/380081> Strain EC, Mumford GK, Silverman K, Griffiths RR. Caffeine Dependence Syndrome: Evidence From Case Histories and Experimental Evaluations. *JAMA.* 1994;272(13):1043–1048. doi:10.1001/jama.1994.03520130081037

3. <https://www.heritage.org/agriculture/report/sugar-shakedown-how-politicians-conspire-the-sugar-lobby-defraud-americas#>
4. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/food-determinations-eligible-foods>
5. <https://www.cato.org/policy-analysis/candy-coated-cartel-time-kill-us-sugar-program>
6. <https://www.bmj.com/content/383/bmj-2023-075354>