



Kansas Dairy Association

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**STATEMENT OF THE KANSAS DAIRY ASSOCIATION
TO THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVE JIM MORRISON, CHAIR
REGARDING SCR 1604
MARCH 9, 2005**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am Chris Wilson, Executive Director of the Kansas Dairy Association (KDA). KDA's membership includes the 470 dairies in Kansas. We are in support of SCR 1604. This resolution is intended to address the concerns regarding student nutrition and well-being, through a study conducted by the Kansas Department of Education in cooperation with other state agencies, private foundations and other private entities.

We hear a lot about obesity issues, the need for exercise and a good diet, and for the development of good lifelong eating habits. This is a good time for Kansas to bring together those who can work cooperatively to address these issues.

Kansas Dairy Association and Kansas Dairy Commission, along with Midwest Dairy Association, conducted a one-year study of dairy vending in schools with lower enrollments (200-375) during 2003 and 2004. We have results from that study which should be beneficial to the effort suggested in SCR 1604. In addition, we have an ongoing program, through which Kansas Dairy Commission is at this time providing funding of \$500 and technical assistance to individual schools purchasing dairy vending machines. We have also worked with an area lender to develop a lease-purchase program for schools interested in obtaining machines. We would be glad to assist in the study in whatever manner appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you in support of SCR 1604. We hope that you recommend it favorable for passage and would be glad to respond to questions.