



PASSAGEWAYS
PROVIDING HOPE FOR OUR
MILITARY VETERAN HEROES

March 7, 2022

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 501—Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Chairman Hilderbrand and members of the Committee:

Passageways is a hybrid shelter service providing temporary housing and services to homeless veterans. We rely on the Kansas Foodbank for up to 50% of our total food purchase. Therefore, we submit this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 501.

Passageways is a Kansas non-profit organization. The services we provide to our homeless veterans (Heroes) include shelter and food. As you can imagine, a homeless person has little to no access to employment and, thereby, are living in poverty. When they come to Passageways, they generally have no income. Our partnership with the Kansas Foodbank provides us with nutritional services for those we serve. We provide for all of their food needs, including special diets. The Kansas Foodbank is vital to our success by providing us with a cost effective way to provide food for our Heroes.

We ask for your thoughtful consideration and vote in opposition to this bill as it will only add to the overwhelming issues of food insecurity we already experience in Wichita, KS. Our Heroes and employees are already taxed financially and cannot afford to bear the probably increase this bill will put on us.

We provide food supplies to Heroes who are working with other agencies to gain housing. This bill will limit the number of Heroes we can serve. As an example, during the month of January 2022, we provided outreach services, to include non-perishable food items, to 57 Heroes and their families. This included a record number of children, 32!

If this bill is not opposed, we will likely have to eliminate providing food through our outreach efforts.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony and urge you to oppose HB 501.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Moellinger
President & Co-Founder

Jennifer Garrison, CEO
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PASSAGEWAYS LTD ORG

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charity and relies solely on
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