



WRITTEN TESTIMONY

KWDA members distribute a wide range of products to the convenience stores of Kentucky and surrounding states. Our members maintain inventory with literally thousands of individual product codes. We would make the following points with regard to the objectives of the Make Kentucky Healthy Again Task Force:

- Many Kentuckians live in a “food desert.” Citizens in areas of the state have to drive an extended distance to access a traditional grocery store.
- Often, convenience stores are the only local source of groceries and other household needs.
- Convenience stores often have a limited staff and electronic systems.
- Imposition of a SNAP eligible product authorization will cause a significant burden our convenience stores customers.

While there is no question that healthy nutrition and lifestyle are important to health, we would not the correlation between the increase in poor health factors began about the same time that “home economics” was begin to be eliminated from public school curriculums. While it is a laudable goal to increase the amount of fresh and farm-to-table foods in Kentucky diets, unless citizens know how to prepare nutritious and tasty meals, the effort may be short lived.

There is always talk of teaching “soft skills” for job applicants and financial literacy, perhaps it is time to look at combining these skills with a nutritional training program. Call it a “Life Skills” course if you like.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments. Please accept my apologies for a conflict that would not allow me to present in person.

Tom Underwood
Executive Director
Kentucky Wholesale Distributors Association
Cell 502-545-2597

Mission Statement of the Kentucky Wholesale Distributors Association

The objects and purposes for which this association is formed are as follows: To lawfully promote the general business welfare of all persons, firms or corporations licensed as resident wholesalers under KRS 138.195 engaged in the business of distributing, marketing or selling legal products at wholesale; to supply government agencies with information and assistance in matters concerning the wholesale distribution industry and to publicize to the wholesale distribution industry legislation and administrative orders affecting the same; to represent the industry in dealing with government, local, state, and federal, and with consumer groups; to assist the members of the Wholesale Distribution Industry in developing research studies for efficient distribution of legal products to the consumer; to acquire, preserve and disseminate valuable business information; to perform any other act as authorized by law.