



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2333
Mr. Daniel Murray
Kansas State Director, National Federation of Independent Business

House Committee on Taxation
February 15, 2023

Chair and members of the committee, I am pleased to submit testimony in strong support of this bill on behalf of NFIB Kansas. NFIB Kansas is the leading small business organization in Kansas representing small and independent businesses. A non-profit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB Kansas represents the consensus views of its over 4,000 members in Kansas.

House Bill 2333 would disqualify beneficiaries from employment security, or UI, benefits for failing to attend a job interview without giving notice to the prospective employer or for failing to respond to a job offer. Under current Kansas law, UI claimants must actively seek a job and employers may report to the Department of Labor if a claimant refuses a job offer.

This bill would clarify that employers may also report when claimants refuse a “suitable offer,” and codify that employers may report when a claimant fails to appear for a job interview without notifying the employer. These needed changes would address a problem long-plaguing the small business community—finding and hiring qualified workers.

According to NFIB’s January jobs report, 57% of owners reported hiring or trying to hire in January, up two points. Of those hiring or trying to hire, 91% of owners reported few or no qualified applicants for the positions they were trying to fill. Twenty-seven percent of owners reported few qualified applicants for their open positions and 25% reported none. The labor shortage continues to be a major concern for small businesses in the New Year as nearly all owners trying to hire are reporting no or few qualified applicants. Small businesses’ sales opportunities are limited because of the staffing shortage. Small business owners need measures like HB2333 to address the persistent workforce problem.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and we strongly urge you to vote favorably for the passage of this legislation.