



House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development
Proponent Written Only Testimony on House Bill 2818
Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Mister Chair and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium, and large-sized businesses across the state advocating for policies to improve the economic climate in Kansas. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on House Bill 2818, a bill relating to legislation pertaining to occupational regulation.

We hear all the time of government overreach in regulatory purposes on businesses. This bill seeks to create a structured process and provide sufficient information when the legislature considers proposals to establish new occupational licenses not currently in existence today. If this legislation were to become law, it would allow individuals to engage in their chosen occupation free from unreasonable government regulations, unless specific criteria as established in the bill are met.

According to the *Institute for Justice* in Kansas, one in five workers must receive an occupational license before they can legally do their job. These are instances of Kansans trying and willing to work but government requirements of occupational licensing impose high barriers to entry costing valuable time and money for an individual. The state took positive steps several years ago by-passing occupational licensing reciprocity.

House Bill 2818 will require a review process and evaluation for the legislature when considering bills that propose new or additional occupational regulations. The review will be aimed to give the legislature necessary information when considering such additional occupational regulation proposals. It is important to note that this bill does exclude healthcare occupations when it comes to their regulations.

In closing, we view this legislation as a step to make Kansas a more competitive state in the business climate to prevent the burden of additional regulation on businesses and their employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2818, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.