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March 13, 2024

To: The Honorable Renee Erickson and Senate Commerce Committee Members

Re: HB 2745

Dear Chair Erickson and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to provide written only testimony in support of H.B. 2745.

This legislation would exempt the spouses of active-duty military members from all application, licensing, registration, certification or permit fees associated with an occupational license. Adoption of this policy would save military families money and, in some cases, quickly allow military spouses to enter our Kansas workforce.

Sedgwick County is proud to be home to McConnell Airforce Base. The base not only plays a critical role in the defense of the United States and the protection of democracy worldwide, it is also a major contributor to the local and state economy. We believe the state should do everything in its power to acknowledge that we support our military members and their spouses. Allowing military spouses to enter the Kansas workforce with less obstacles, assists in that message, while also helping to address critical workforce shortages faced by Kansas employers.

H.B. 2745 is good public policy and we ask that the Committee report this legislation favorable for passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Baty", is written over the word "Respectfully,".

Ryan Baty, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners