



Written Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2795

House Redistricting Committee Friday, May 4, 2012

Mr. Chairman and House Redistricting Committee Members:

My name is Jennifer Bruning, and I am Vice President of Government Affairs with the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council. I am submitting written testimony today in opposition of House Bill 2795 on behalf of our Board of Directors and our nearly 1,000 member companies.

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce urges you to vote for a redistricting plan that will appropriately provide Johnson County the representation we deserve based upon our past decade of population growth. We want to be clear that the Chamber does not have a position on any particular map, but we are absolute in our support for proportional representation for Johnson County, which should deliver at least three new House districts and one new Senate district. House Bill 2795 does NOT provide us with that appropriate representation.

While the redistricting process can become very politicized, this end result must be paramount: bring the deserved representation home to our citizens. It would be inappropriate for any other outcome to be achieved. Johnson County is the economic engine for our state; our quality of life has been and will continue to be an attracter of jobs and residents, and this County deserves these new seats. We believe it is critical that your constituents, including pro-business groups like ours, communicate their priorities to you so you have backing to make strategic decisions. This decision will have long-term ramifications. Votes taken in the House and Senate in the future could negatively impact Johnson County if our citizens and businesses are not appropriately represented.

We urge you to oppose House Bill 2795. Thank you for your consideration and action.