



**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2354  
Presented by Kristi Brown, Sr. Director of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kristi Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 2354.

The Kansas Chamber is supportive of efforts to improve the quality of education through work-based training and apprentice opportunities to better address the demands of an ever-changing business environment. The need for highly trained and educated talent in Kansas is an on-going challenge and one that we believe this state can begin to address by ensuring students have the opportunity to learn and train while businesses providing those opportunities are protected.

An important component of our legislative agenda this year is to support secondary education training and apprenticeships. It is also important that we do everything we can to support the businesses and companies that chose to get involved in providing students access to develop marketable skills once they graduate. This not only prepares our students for their future, but also encourages them to stay in Kansas to work and raise their own families here. We believe this legislation supports the pursuit of training our students for careers that meet the demands of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy and workforce.

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Chamber to provide testimony and express support of House Bill 2354.