



**Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 297
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state.

The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 297, which amends Kansas law to require appraisals be performed in “compliance with the uniform standards of professional appraisal practice” (USPAP). SB 297 also clarifies that the director of property valuation is the sole authority to allow for additional standards if a determination is made that additional standards are required, as long as those do not conflict with USPAP.

According to their website, USPAP *“are the generally recognized ethical and performance standards for the appraisal profession in the United States. USPAP was adopted by Congress in 1989, and contains standards for all types of appraisal services.”* USPAP essentially does two things: 1- They set the requirements to qualify for designation as an appraiser; and 2) set minimum standards for an appraisal to be considered credible.

The benefit for taxpayers with the proposed changes in SB 297 would be ensuring the highest standards of appraisal professionals are the guiding principles by which property in Kansas is appraised, while also ensuring that the director of PVD would be the only office which can establish additional standards for appraising property.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 297 and would be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.