

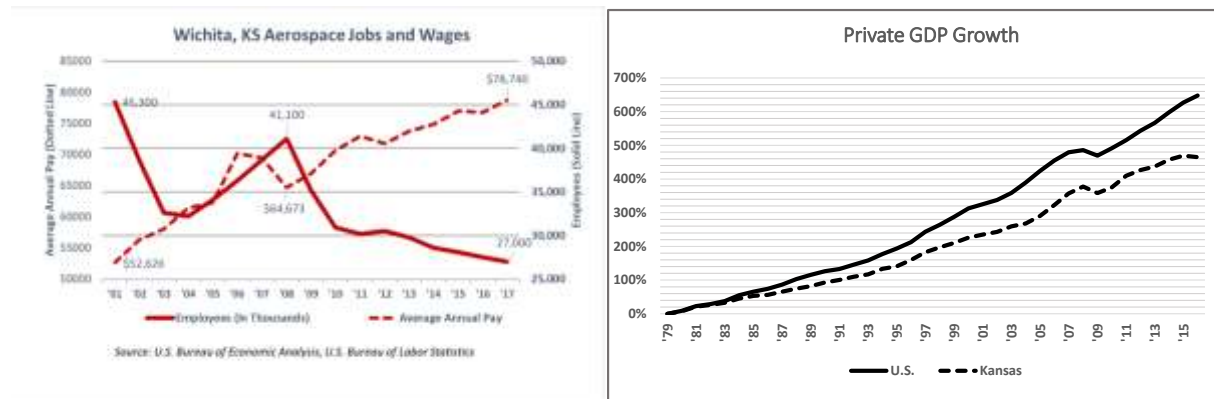


Chairwoman Lynn and Members of the Committee,

We appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2006, which creates a database to house the state’s economic incentives.

Economic Development Needs Reform

Economic incentives are a bipartisan endeavor. Former Governor Sebelius proclaimed victory in luring Applebee’s headquarters to Kansas only for them to leave for California after collecting millions of taxpayer dollars. Governor Brownback offered the American Royal double in tax incentives just to move across state lines. Just recently Former Governor Jeff Colyer, and now Governor Kelly announced “major jobs” in Wichita’s aerospace manufacturing. While we do not know the tax incentive package given for this “major jobs” event, the industry is on track to lose 1,600 aerospace workers a year. Meanwhile, the economic incentives given out over the year hasn’t reversed the state’s 40-year economic stagnation.



The creation of a database by HB 2006 is a step in the right direction. Policymakers should know how many tax incentives are handed out each year. They should know the dollar amounts involved. By making state tax incentives better transparent for legislators and the public, it encourages scrutiny, reform, and hopefully a more effective use of taxpayer dollars.

For this reason we encourage passage of HB 2006.