



**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2328  
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

**Monday, March 22, 2021**

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2328, a bill that would establish a tax credit for new graduates of aerospace and aviation educational programs.

While the first flight might have happened in North Carolina, the aviation industry has deep roots in Kansas. This industry is critical to the Kansas economy and employs tens of thousands of Kansans, either through direct employment or manufacturing suppliers and service companies. This important industry has faced direct competition from other states seeking to attract the well-paying aviation jobs from Kansas through industry-targeting tax credits.

House Bill 2328 would establish a new tax credit focused on the aviation industry. For employers, HB 2328 would allow for a non-refundable 50% income tax credit for the amount of tuition reimbursed to a qualified employee. The credit could be claimed for up to four years if the employee remains employed with the qualified employer.

HB 2328 would also allow for a non-refundable tax credit for up to five years for compensation paid to an employee, equal to 10% of the compensation paid but not to exceed \$15,000 annually for each qualifying employee.

Kansas faces nationwide competition as states try to attract these high-paying jobs and investment to their state. HB 2328 would be a beneficial tool to maintain and attract investment from such an important industry. In closing, the Legislature has taken many positive steps to strengthen our state's workforce development needs. We would ask that House Bill 2328 be added to the tool box as a benefit for companies and their workforce choosing to invest in our state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2328 and I'm happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.