



**Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 282
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Monday, March 22, 2021

Madam Chair 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 Senate Bill 282, 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.

Senate Bill 282 would establish a new tax credit focused on the aviation industry. For aviation employers, SB 282 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.

SB 282 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. SB 282 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 Senate Bill 282 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 Senate Bill 282 and I'm happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.