

Legislative Testimony

SB 260

February 13, 2007

Testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee by Marlee Carpenter, Vice President of Government Affairs

Chairman Brownlee, Chairman Jordan and members of the committee:

I am Marlee Carpenter with the Kansas Chamber. We represent over 10,000 members, small, medium and large businesses from all corners of the state. SB 260 imposes penalties for those who hire illegal aliens. In response to concerns this bill addresses as well as others introduced on both the House and Senate side, the Kansas Chamber has joined with other interested business groups to form a coalition.

The coalition is working together to ensure that Kansas employers who follow the law are not penalized and those who break it intentionally are penalized. We are in the process of bringing a plan to the legislature and we hope that the plan will address many of the concerns raised in bills introduced this session.

We urge this committee to look at the totality of the immigration and illegal alien issue and not and piece together penalties for employers.

The Kansas Chamber, with headquarters in Topeka, is the statewide business advocacy group moving Kansas towards becoming the best state in America to do business. The Kansas Chamber and its affiliate organization, The Kansas Chamber Federation, have more than 10,000 member businesses, including local and regional chambers of commerce and trade organizations. The Chamber represents small, medium and large employers all across Kansas.