



**Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation  
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 252  
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

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 submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 252, which provides a property and sales tax exemption for certain businesses.

Our 2023 legislative agenda approved by the Kansas Chamber board of directors includes a policy position to oppose government competition with private sector companies. In recent years we have opposed efforts by the department of corrections to expand inmate training programs that would result in the ability to sell goods and services that directly compete with private sector industries.

We have seen cities develop new attraction areas that include fitness centers paid for by taxpayers. We have seen a city-owned restaurant compete against privately owned restaurants on weekend brunches. Those private businesses face the burden of property taxes, income taxes and sales tax collection and remittance that cannot compete with government-owned entities that don't face the same financial constraints.

SB 252 is narrowed to specific industries- ambulance services, child care center, entertainment, health/fitness, recreation and restaurants. These are all areas we've seen government operate on an unlevel playing field with the private sector.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 252, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.