

Proponent Testimony for Kansas House Bill No. 2343

Presented to the House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development

By [Your Name/Organization]

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Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of House Bill No. 2343, the "No-Impact Home-Based Business Fairness Act." My name is Adam Turk, and I am a Representative for the 117th district. This legislation, if enacted, will empower entrepreneurs, protect small business owners, and ensure that home-based businesses can thrive in Kansas without undue regulatory burdens.

---Supporting Small Businesses and Economic Growth---

This legislation recognizes the significant role these businesses play in our communities and aims to remove unnecessary barriers that hinder their success. By ensuring that no-impact home-based businesses are a permitted use of residential property, this bill provides business owners with much-needed stability and protection from arbitrary restrictions that stifle economic growth.

---Preventing Overregulation While Ensuring Public Safety---

A critical component of this bill is the limitation on regulatory overreach. Many home-based business owners face unnecessary permitting, licensing, and rezoning requirements, despite their businesses having no discernible impact on their neighborhoods. This bill establishes a commonsense framework by ensuring regulators can only restrict these businesses when it is necessary to protect public health and safety.

Furthermore, the bill prohibits excessive and intrusive requirements, such as mandatory rezoning or fire sprinkler installations, that would make it prohibitively expensive for individuals to start or maintain a business from home. At the same time, it retains reasonable protections to ensure businesses do not cause disturbances or pose risks to the surrounding community.

---Promoting Fairness and Legal Clarity---

The establishment of clear and consistent guidelines regarding home-based businesses ensures that entrepreneurs know their rights and obligations. The bill recognizes that home-based businesses should not be treated differently from similar residential properties simply because they engage in lawful commerce. By requiring regulators to demonstrate—through clear and convincing evidence—that any regulation aligns with the principles of this act, HB 2343 provides legal certainty to small business owners and minimizes arbitrary enforcement.

---Recognizing the Unique Needs of Rural Home-Based Businesses---

HB 2343 acknowledges that rural home-based businesses often have different circumstances compared to urban ones. By directing regulators to consider factors such as isolation, property size, and proximity to other residences, the bill ensures that rural businesses are not subject to unnecessary regulations designed for more densely populated areas. This provision is particularly valuable for Kansas' agricultural communities, where small, home-based operations are an integral part of the local economy.

---Conclusion---

In summary, HB 2343 is a productive step forward in supporting entrepreneurship, reducing unnecessary governmental interference, and fostering economic development across Kansas. This bill strikes an appropriate balance between protecting community interests and ensuring that home-based business owners have the freedom to operate without excessive burdens.

I urge this committee to support HB 2343 and advance it to the full House for consideration. Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam D. Turk

Kansas House of Representatives, District 117