

Written Testimony for Senate Commerce Committee  
Sub for HB 2105 Employment Security Law  
Tuesday, March 19, 2013

From: Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce  
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce  
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce  
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Lynn and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

The local chambers of commerce listed above would like to express our support for many of the provisions proposed in Sub for HB 2105. We are pleased that the Senate Commerce Committee is considering language to improve current statutes regarding Employment Security Law benefits.

We support the recommended changes listed below:

- Modifying wages to include holiday pay.
- An employee is not eligible to receive unemployment benefits, while the employee receives severance pay.
- Clarifying gross misconduct and misconduct in the statute.
- Increase penalty for individuals who knowingly make false statements to obtain or increase benefits.
- Lower the rate for new employers from 4.0% to 2.7%.
- Change the high cost multiplier from 1.2 to 1.0.
- Notification of employers by November 15 of their new contribution rates.
- Eliminate the Employment Security Advisory Council (ESAC).

The chambers listed above do not have a position on changing the benefit wage rate from \$8,000 to \$16,000.

Thank you Chairwoman Lynn and Committee for allowing these local chambers to provide input on Sub for HB 2105.