

March 9, 2015

To the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee:

Each of us, as the heads of Kansas state agencies, appreciate this opportunity to convey our collective and unanimous support of the human resources initiatives proposed in House Bill 2391.

For the past several months, we have worked with Secretary Clark and his staff to discuss and revise these proposals. We would like the Committee to know that each and every Cabinet secretary fully supports these initiatives.

Each of our agencies provides critical services to the citizens of Kansas, and our most vital resource in carrying out that mission are our employees. With this in mind, we believe the initiatives proposed in HB 2391 will greatly assist us in making sure that we have a workforce that can provide the quality services Kansas residents deserve.

In particular, enhancing our flexibility in filling positions in the unclassified service will help us fill vacant positions faster and provide opportunities for current employees to maximize their productivity by tailoring positions to their specific abilities. This will not only help our agencies better achieve our missions, but will also allow us to recognize the contributions of our best employees.

The proposed amendment regarding longevity bonuses will also greatly enhance our ability to achieve our agencies' missions and goals by providing the assurance that we will not be required to self-fund the bonuses at the expense of critical positions, programs or both. This assurance will allow us to plan and utilize our resources more efficiently, without having to make last minute changes to secure funding for this purpose.

Overall, we believe that the initiatives set out in this bill will be a tremendous benefit to each of our agencies, and we would urge the Committee to pass this legislation. Thank you.



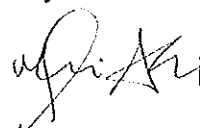
Jackie McClaskey
Secretary of Agriculture



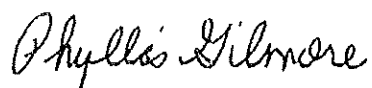
Lana Gordon
Secretary of Labor



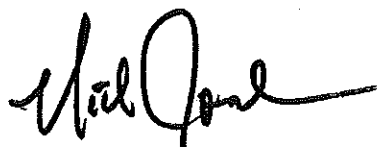
Major General Lee Tafari
Adjutant General



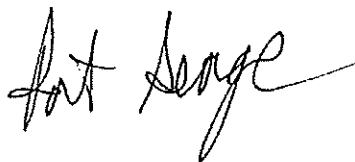
Mike King
Secretary, Dept. of Transportation



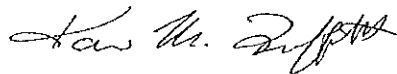
Phyllis Gilmore
Secretary, Department for
Children and Families



Nick Jordan
Secretary of Revenue



Pat George
Secretary of Commerce



Kari Bruffet
Secretary, Kansas Department for
Aging and Disability Services