



**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Testimony in Opposition to HB 2618- Prison Made Goods Act
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Monday, February 15, 2016

Mister Chairman 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 testify in opposition to House Bill 2618 which significantly expands the prison made goods act.

Our legislative agenda approved by the Kansas Chamber's board of directors contains an item under our Government Efficiency section which states "Support outsourcing state government functions to the private sector while maintaining needed services and lowering the cost of doing business in Kansas."

HB 2618 if passed would expand the prison made goods act to allow the department of corrections to sell products and services to any resident or inmate of the state or any business located in Kansas. Current law allows for the sale of products or services to the federal government, any state agency, state employees for personal use, and any local agency or organization within the state.

We believe HB 2618 goes against our legislative agenda by allowing the program under the department of corrections to offer products or services which directly compete with the private sector. We fully support efforts by the department to partner with private sector businesses to train inmates so they can learn valuable and marketable skills to allow them to enter the workforce upon completion of their sentence. However, we cannot support programs which directly compete with services or products sold or performed by private sector business.

We respectfully ask for your opposition to House Bill 2618. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this bill and I am happy to answer any questions.



The Kansas Chamber, with headquarters in Topeka, is the leading statewide pro-business advocacy group moving Kansas towards becoming the best state in America to do business. The Chamber represents small, medium and large employers all across Kansas.