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**JEFF MELCHER**  
SENATOR

Kansas Senate Commerce Committee

Testimony in support of SB 179

Madam Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today in support of SB 179.

This bill is the result of a desire to attract, reward and retain the finest government employees, improve government efficiency, and better serve the citizens of Kansas.

Current statute has been interpreted by courts to expand into areas not consistent with its original design. Changes include clarifying the language to reflect its original intent as well as allowing more flexibility to reward individual employee achievement. It also allows the government agencies to respond to market forces as it relates to labor. The private sector is far more responsive to these forces and current statute hampers the public sector's desire to compete for the highest skilled workers.

I encourage you to pass SB 179 favorably.

I will stand for questions when the time is appropriate.

Senator Jeff Melcher