



**WATKINS & SCHNEIDER**  
CONSULTING, LLC

February 7, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to H.B. 2185. I appear today on behalf of the Associated General Contractors of Kansas, the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association, the Kansas Beer Wholesalers Association and the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce. Together, these organizations represent over 19,000 Kansas businesses that employ nearly 250,000 Kansans.

These organizations all oppose H.B. 2185 because the bill would create unpredictability and remove state pre-emptive authority over what are statewide issues. Regulatory stability helps businesses plan for the future. Nationally we have seen many local governments pass restrictive wage and hour measures, which creates a regulatory patchwork that is difficult to manage.

We believe that it is in the best interest of public policy and job creation efforts that decisions on compensation, paid leave and other areas regarding employment agreements be decided at the state level. A patchwork of local employment regulations across the state makes Kansas's regulatory environment confusing and unattractive to the job creators we are all working to attract or retain.

The Kansas Legislature has been and continues to be the most appropriate place for significant broad based policy debates impacting both workers and employees. We would urge this committee to reject HB 2185 and continue our Kansas tradition of keeping these issues at the state level.

Very truly yours,

Jason Watkins