



March 15, 2017

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our over 1,600 members, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on S.B. 212. The Chamber stands in strong support of passing this legislation. In fact, in a recent survey of our membership, over 70% of our members supported moving to a state administered OSHA plan.

We believe this legislation to be very pro jobs and pro Kansas industry. This bill is not about growing Kansas government. It is about bringing major regulation and enforcement out of the hands of Washington D.C. and into the hands of reasonable and responsible Kansans. It is about putting the control of an agency that can literally shut down a business, assess hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines and break a company, into the hands of a government much closer to the governed.

Workplace safety should be about just that; workplace safety. It should not be used a mechanism to fund the federal government. The frequency of inspections, level of strictness, scrutiny, citations and fines should not be influenced by the federal budget.

Kansas has a real opportunity to set itself apart from many of the states we compete with for jobs and industry. A state administered OSHA plan would send a signal loud and clear that Kansas has a pro-business regulatory environment. It's a commonsense Kansas idea that we hope the Committee will report favorable for passage.

Very truly yours,

Jason Watkins