



**Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Support of Senate Bill 76- Restrictions on occupational licensing and fees
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. I appreciate the opportunity to stand in support of Senate Bill 76, which would prohibit local units of government from imposing new occupational fees or licensing requirements on professional services.

Our legislative agenda adopted by our board of directors this year includes a section on regulatory affairs which reads “The Kansas Chamber supports a regulatory climate that promotes a healthy business climate and instills regulatory certainty.” Specifically, we support policies which “defend the rights of business and industry from burdensome state and federal regulations.”

SB 76 will protect the thousands of licensed professionals in the state by preventing local governments from adding additional rules and fees. Most professions are governed at the state level by agencies which charge fees to fund the agency. Allowing local units of government to add additional fees and requirements creates an additional level of regulation and unnecessary cost to Kansas businesses.

Limiting regulations at all levels of government, whether federal, state or local should be encouraged so businesses can focus more on providing their service to customers. By limiting licensing requirements and fees to the state level, Kansas would take a significant step in the right direction of creating a sound regulatory climate that will attract businesses and professionals to operate in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 76. We are happy to answer any questions you may have at the appropriate time.



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.