



EQUALITY ♦ LAW ♦ JUSTICE

## **Disability Rights Center of Kansas**

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### **Proponent for HB 2701**

**House Commerce, Labor & Economic Development Committee**

**March 10, 2020**

#### **Chairman Tarwater and members of the Committee:**

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is the officially designated protection and advocacy system in Kansas. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose sole interest is the protection of the legal rights of Kansans with disabilities.

We are happy to support HB2701 and expand hiring preference for people with disabilities.

It is a great opportunity for the State of Kansas to lead by example and to benefit from a qualified workforce of Kansans with disabilities. This bill can build on previous efforts to improve disability hiring practices at the State of Kansas including the Disability Employment Review: Key Findings and Recommendations report written by Andy Traub with Allied Global Services in the fall of 2018. Those recommendations would definitely complement this bill and enhance the outcomes the bill will achieve.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support on the bill. I would be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.