



**Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association
Testimony Supporting
House Bill 2068
Scott J. Schneider J.D.
House Federal & State Affairs
Wednesday, January 30, 2019**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association supports House Bill 2068. This bill would allow the Kansas lottery to use their Kansas retailers, many of whom are our members, to conduct sports wagering.

The Kansas restaurant industry employs over 137,000 people and nearly one half of every dollar spent on food in Kansas is through one of our member businesses. Our association provides solutions to our industry for everything from food safety training to our self-insured workers compensation fund and we have testified in support of vending machines in recent years. While we have concerns about diverting money spent on food to recreational gaming, we understand how wagering on sports is a pastime.

The KRHA wants our members to have as much flexibility in their business plans as possible. We believe HB 2068 in New Section 1 (b)(2) that states: *“The Kansas lottery may offer sports wagering...through lottery retailers who have contracted with the Kansas lottery to conduct sports wagering on behalf of the Kansas lottery;”* is a critical piece to any expanded sports gaming legislation. We asked “who have contracted” be made clear to allow new businesses entry into the marketplace.

There are many restaurants and sports bars, who if given the opportunity to be a retailer for the Kansas Lottery for sports betting, would be interested. Even though they may not currently be a Kansas Lottery retailer. Our goal is simply to support legislation which supports our members who want to build a business plan which included sports gaming.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.