



**Senate Commerce Committee
Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 38
Presented by Kristi Brown, Sr. Director of Government Affairs**

Friday, March 15, 2019

Madam Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kristi Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 38.

SB 38 would allow privately contracted school bus drivers to apply for Unemployment Benefits when school is not in session. The UI system exists to provide help to those who have lost their job through no fault of their own. Bus drivers are hired for a specific period of time each year with the times they will not be employed clearly outlined in advance. SB38 would expand benefits beyond the current definition of those qualified to receive them.

The UI fund, because of reforms made several years ago, has become stable in the state. Adding a group that would be drawing benefits on a cyclical basis, and for reasons not originally intended could open the door for other groups to draw from the fund and cause destabilization in the future.

The legislature has worked hard to insure the stability of the UI system. SB38 would cause Kansas to take a step back in its attempt to create long term dependability in the system for those who have truly become unemployed and need temporary assistance.

We thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony against SB38 and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.