

To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
From: DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration
Re: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2443
Date: March 23, 2021

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2443.

The Department of Administration fully supports the establishment of a statutory hiring preference for persons with disabilities which is similar to and modeled after the existing veterans hiring preference. This legislation is the solution to legal and practical challenges that have hampered the State's ability to implement this program which was first contemplated several years ago. The legislation clarifies who will be eligible for the preference, how that eligibility is ascertained, and the nature of the preference provided which address each of those challenges.

This important legislation can be implemented with relatively minor modifications to our current system and practices. The Department of Administration would be happy to provide any additional information the Committee requests.

Thank you,

DeAngela Burns-Wallace
Secretary, Department of Administration