



**Overland
Park
Chamber™**

To: Representative Fred Patton and Members of the House Judiciary Committee
From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Date: 13 January 2021

Rep. Patton and Members of the Committee:

The word unprecedented was heavily used during 2020 in response to the impact of the COVID pandemic. Despite the overuse, there really isn't a better word to describe what we experienced in Kansas. The KS Legislature acted quickly to ensure the state and the business community could conduct their operations as efficiently as possible during a quickly evolving and uncertain situation. Passage of HB 2016 during the 2020 Special Session sought to address many concerns that had been raised during the early stages of what turned out to be a long-term situation.

As you are aware, HB 2016 contained modifications to the Kansas Emergency Management Act as well as provisions that impacted schools, courts and businesses. Without legislative action, authorization for many of these provisions will expire on 26 January 2021.

The Chamber is particularly concerned with the elements of the bill related to business liability; healthcare - including telemedicine and hospital and provider licensing; and provisions that provide statutory backing for notary services without a personal appearance requirement. The changes provided for in these sections allows our healthcare providers to provide critical health services and the business community to continue supporting economic recovery from this pandemic.

The business community has shown amazing creativity and resilience. We encourage this committee and the legislature to extend the sunset dates contained in HB 2016 in

order to provide the legislature more time to thoroughly vet the impact of these changes, and consider how enactment of these changes for the long-term might be beneficial and necessary.

Passage of HB 2048 will accomplish the goal of extending the sunset provision and allow more time to fully evaluate the long-term benefits and ramifications of more permanent changes.