

**To: Representative Fred Patton and Members of the Committee**  
**From: Jake Miller, Executive Director for Working Kansas Alliance**  
**Re: Testimony in Opposition to the SB 283**  
**Date: March 18, 2021**

Chairman Patton and members of the committee,

Today, we write to you to urge strong opposition to the Kansas Chamber's attempt to absolve negligent businesses' liability. This is an agenda that does not protect the more than 500,000 Kansas workers.

This bill uses the COVID-19 pandemic to shove through a law to strip away a citizen's right to seek remedies from a negligent business in taking appropriate precautions to protect employees and customers. Instead, this effort would give companies immunity and reward them for not protecting the people they owe their success to – their employees and customers. This is in addition to the fact that today Kansas workers have no protection when it comes to workers' compensation.

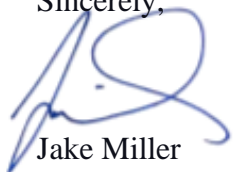
SB 283 extends cover from liability to businesses against COVID-19 claims. Anything dealing with workers' or individuals' protections from COVID-19 is set to expire **on April 1, 2021**. This bill instead places businesses ahead of individuals by extending protections for them. Instead of providing workers' compensation protections, extending unemployment benefits, or anything else centered around individuals, the Legislature is extending benefits for business and providing nothing for everyone else.

This is not a game. This is a life-and-death situation. Instead, the dangerous Chamber agenda is all about saving a buck on the corporate balance sheet. We demand Kansas government put its citizens' safety first and ignore this attempt to use a horrible pandemic to extend liability protection for businesses. At the same time, it does nothing to protect its citizens.

Without amendments to this bill that would support Kansas workers' protections, we must stand in strong opposition to this underlying bill. We ask the committee to consider amending this bill to provide additional protections to Kansas workers.

I thank the committee for allowing us to testify here today. Should the committee have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [jdm235@gmail.com](mailto:jdm235@gmail.com)

Sincerely,



Jake Miller  
Executive Director  
Working Kansas Alliance



*SMART Transportation Division*

*Teamsters 696*

*International Association of Fire Fighters*

*Kansas National Education Association*

*Kansas Coalition of Public Retirees*

*Kansas Organization of State Employees*

*Kansas AFL-CIO*

*International Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers Local 304*

*Kansas AFT*

*Teamsters Joint Council 56*

*Wichita Hutchinson Labor Federation*

*Tri-County Labor Council of Eastern Kansas*

*Kansas Chiropractic Association*

*Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 441*

*Laborers 1290 & Laborers 1290PE*

*Service Employees International Union Local  
513*

*Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and  
Trainmen - IBT*

*Brotherhood of Maintenance of Ways  
Employees Division - IBT*

*Greater Kansas City Building & Construction  
Trades Council*

*Boilermakers Local 83*

*Bakery, Confectionary, Tobacco Workers &  
Grain Millers Local 218*

*Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way  
Employees Division*

*International Brotherhood of Electrical  
Workers 304*

*Carpenters Regional Council St. Louis -  
Kansas City*

*Salina Area Workers Coalition*