



**Testimony to House Committee on Judiciary  
Proponent Testimony HB2652  
February 14, 2022  
The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce**

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber) urges the House Committee on Judiciary to favorably pass HB2652 which will continue to protect Kansas businesses and healthcare providers from frivolous lawsuits brought about by COVID-19. As Kansas looks to grow its economy, businesses across the state need legal and regulatory safe harbor legislation to curb liabilities for employers who follow official health and safety guidelines. The KC Chamber, representing nearly 2,000 businesses (40% of which are in Kansas), strongly believes continuing these needed protections reassures businesses that they can confidently and safely stay open or reopen.

Our members tell us that they want to make sure that they are not held liable should employees, customers, or others contract COVID-19. While we agree that individuals with legitimate grievances should have a reasonable course for justice against a company that acted negligently and knowingly put the health of workers at risk, we believe that the threat of misguided and frivolous litigation can not only deter entrepreneurship and hamper business in the state, but it can also force scores of businesses to close their doors and cause thousands of workers to become jobless. The same protections should also be afforded for our health care providers and workers who have tirelessly been working around the clock to save patients amidst overstretched health care facilities.

As we look to make the State of Kansas a welcoming environment for business, it makes sense that the State of Kansas should mitigate legal risks by offering businesses protection against frivolous coronavirus-related lawsuits. Common-sense reforms have been passed across the country. Kansas should not be an exception and reverse course on this legislation. Meaningful protections will help keep thousands of Kansans working and remove one more barrier for businesses as they continue to recover from the pandemic, look to stay open, and support the state's economic recovery.

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