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## Testimony

### In Support of SB 361 Senate Commerce Committee

By John Nave, Executive Vice-president

KANSAS AFL-CIO

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Chairwomen Erickson and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me time to speak before you in support of SB 361. This bill would give injured workers some dignity while they work to improve their health to go back to work or have some level of quality of life throughout their remaining life resulting from being severely injured at work.

**SB 361** addresses compensation for workers who are injured so severely that they may never go back to work. Kansas law limits compensation at a maximum of \$155,000.00. clearly that is not enough to sustain them til the age of 65 when they then receive Social Security.

The states that border Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri, and Oklahoma have a better workers Compensation system than Kansas, fact is we have the worst in the country. Workers in Kansas earn a minimum of seven twenty-five an hour, fifteen to twenty an hour or more, fact remains working families have rent, mortgages, they buy groceries, and they take care of their families, and fact, put money right back into the economy in their communities.

The last two years were very hard on the citizens of Kansas, one might say devastating due to a pandemic health crisis across the state and country, many were laid off or let go. The unemployment system was outdated and needed fixed. Many of you heard personal stories of severe hardships. What you all pledged to do was fix the system. You all came together agreed to disagree, but you fixed the system for the citizens of Kansas. Now is the time to fix the workers compensation system and bring it up to par with the states around us. I ask you to work **SB 361** and bring it to the floor. Thank you

