



**Senate Committee on Commerce**

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2703**

**Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2703, a cleanup bill from last year's HB 2196 dealing with unemployment insurance.

HB 2703 makes necessary changes to the employer tax rate tables in Section 1, after oversight from last year's comprehensive UI reform bill passed by the Legislature. Failure to fix this table will result in incorrect tax rates for employers.

The second change proposed under HB 2703 clear up issues with the "My reemployment plan" passed in 2021 that allows the departments of commerce and labor to share information of claimants searching for work. Section 3 (2) changes "three consecutive weeks" to "a third week" of benefits claimed. There were issues where individuals were not enrolling in the program because they would not claim three consecutive weeks but would receive more than three weeks of benefits. This section also requires a completed resume to be submitted in the Kansasworks system. The final change would extend the timeframe for individuals to respond to the Secretary of Commerce from 7 to 14 days.

In closing, we support these necessary changes as clean up to help everyone utilizing the UI system-state agencies, employers and claimants. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2703, and I'm happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.