

**Senate Ways and Means
Testimony in Support of HB 2218**

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Greetings Chair Billinger and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2218. HB 2218 would amend K.S.A. 75-6502 to update the qualifications for who is eligible to serve as the current state employee and retired state employee members of the Health Care Commission (HCC).

As an organization comprised of 18 active state employees and three retired employees, the Employee Advisory Committee supports HB 2218 because it realigns the statute's requirements with the modern-day state workforce. At its December 2020 meeting, the HCC also voted unanimously to support these amendments.

Under the current statute, the five members of the HCC are the: (1) Insurance Commissioner; (2) Secretary of Administration; (3) a "current state employee in the classified service under the Kansas civil service act, appointed by the governor"; (4) "a person who retired from a position in the classified service under the Kansas civil service act, appointed by the governor"; and (5) a representative of the public, appointed by the governor. This statute was last amended in 1992, and the character of the state workforce has drastically changed since then.

Today, most state employees are unclassified because the Kansas Civil Service Act was recently amended to permit conversion of many classified positions to unclassified. This has caused a dramatic reduction in the number of state employees in classified service.

In 2000—eight years after K.S.A. 75-6502 was last amended—there were 20,090 classified non-University Executive Branch employees and 2,082 unclassified non-University Executive Branch employees. By 2020, there were 5,747 classified and 12,841 unclassified non-University Executive Branch employees. Notably, these figures exclude employees in the judicial branch, legislative branch, and all University employees. Historically, some University employees were in classified service, but those positions have all been converted.

As a result of this dramatic shift, the number of state employees eligible to serve on the HCC has also dramatically shrunk—a trend that is likely to continue. Over time, the same dramatic shift will occur within the retiree population as the percentage of retirees that served in classified service will diminish.

HB 2218 would bring the HCC's membership criteria in line with the current workforce by removing the restriction that the current state employee and the retired employee be

in/from classified service under the Kansas civil service act. Removing this requirement would not prevent employees/retirees from civil service from being appointed, but it would allow unclassified employees/retirees the opportunity to serve on the HCC.

HB 2218 would also add a requirement that the current state employee and the retired person be enrolled on a state group medical plan. Enrollment on a dental or vision plan would not be sufficient to meet this requirement. This change ensures that these members can bring their personal experience with the health plans to the HCC.