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TORY MARIE BLEW
112TH DISTRICT

Chairman Tarwater and members of the Commerce and Labor Committee,

Thank you for taking time to hear HB 2123, also known as the Right to Start Act. I first learned about this non-profit initiated to remove red tape for entrepreneurs last session, and we had a bill introduced, but unfortunately ran out of time. During the off session, I worked with Jason Grill, with Right to Start, to produce a bill that was different from last year, but also one that was as nonpartisan as possible. I want to note that this bill isn't exactly one that I wanted, but I also want to make sure that there is a start for this initiative.

Over this past year, I've had a chance to speak with the Future Caucus, the Department of Commerce, NetWork Kansas, and other organizations and lobbyists about this legislation, which I have to say, I've learned a lot about what we currently have in place in Kansas and what we're missing. Many have noted, 'This sounds a lot like NetWork Kansas', which initially it does sound like it, but I think this also is something that is different that could be added to NetWork Kansas' model to strengthen their capabilities. KS 74-99c creates the Kansas Center of Entrepreneurship. The Right to Start Act could be added to this originating statute, and add more manpower, or womanpower, to this 'Center'.

I do want to note one section that seemed to cause some heartburn for some folk is Section 3 a. At the will of the committee, if this section would be removed, then I would not have an issue with it. I believe the report needs to be completed first then we can start striving for goals afterwards.

In conclusion, I support HB 2123. I believe this is something we can add to our toolbox we already have in Kansas, and I look forward to being the number one State in the Nation for entrepreneurs.

Kansas Proud,

Tory Marie

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