



House Committee on Judiciary

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2604- Increasing limit to Small Claims

Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2604, which increases the threshold for small claims from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

According to the Kansas Judicial Branch website, “Small claims court provides a simple, informal procedure for people to settle certain legal problems cheaply and quickly. In small claims court, you can sue someone or be sued by someone, and you present your side of the case yourself. You cannot be represented by a lawyer unless the other party is a lawyer. Small claims court handles only simple cases involving small amounts of money or property.”

Researching other state limits, 22 states have a limit of at least \$10,000, while some are as high as \$25,000. As property and costs have risen, this policy change would be helpful for individuals and small businesses seeking small recovery of money or property.

In closing, we believe House Bill 2604 is a good solution to improve our state’s business and legal climate. Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of HB 2604, and I am happy to answer questions you may have.