

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION MONDAY, MARCH 18 PROPONENT TESTIMONY HB2773

Chairman Smith and Committee Members, thank you for the hearing today on HB2773.

The Greater Topeka Chamber represents the voice of over 1,000 business members, and today we write to express our support for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Topeka. Their efforts to mobilize youth in our underrepresented communities, particularly in workforce and leadership positions positively contribute to our economy.

Economic Vitality is a pillar of the Greater Topeka Chamber and the overall Greater Topeka Partnership, which represents economic development and the private sector.

Having a population that possesses work ready skills and resources, ensures they are empowered to apply themselves and better their livelihoods. We believe that if the Boys & Girls Club of Topeka is granted a sales tax exemption for the construction of a workforce readiness, career, and leadership development center, this vision is achievable.

These sentiments were shared when we initially drafted our support for a hearing. Therefore, we hope that you will fully consider their request and urge the committee to vote in favor of this measure.

Sincerely,

Juliet Abdel, MS, IOM President, SVP Government Affairs Greater Topeka Chamber