



**Testimony to House Committee on Commerce
Support of HB 2544
Thursday, January 24, 2024
The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce**

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber), representing approximately 2,000 members (40% of which are in Kansas) supports HB 2544 which encourages businesses to hire and retain members of the Kansas National Guard by offering a tax credit to those who hire members and a tax credit to those who choose to serve. The KC Chamber believes that these tax credits offer valuable assistance to both employers and to those who serve in our National Guard.

The tax credits offered in HB2544 will help Kansas and the greater Kansas City region secure its position as a leader in military and veteran support and civil-military relations. These tax credits are extremely valuable in building a network of high-quality employees and community-minded National Guard members and will incentivize employers who are considering hiring members of the National Guard.

As the economy continues to hold at record low unemployment numbers, the KC Chamber believes it is imperative we employ strategies to get more people to participate in the workforce. The Chamber believes that these tax credits are good policy and will help alleviate workforce strains seen throughout greater Kansas City. Additionally, the KC Chamber's Military Affairs Committee, composed of top employers, representatives from area military installations, and military veterans, has charged the Chamber to advocate for more employment opportunities for service members. The KC Chamber encourages this committee to pass HB 2544 with a favorable recommendation.

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