



January 25, 2024

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1,500 members, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of H.B. 2544, AN ACT concerning taxation; relating to income, privilege and premium tax credits; establishing a tax credit for employers that employ members of the Kansas army and air national guard and establishing an income tax credit for employees that are members thereof.

This legislation would create an income tax credit for employers that employ members of the Kansas Army or Air National Guard. The credit would be 10% of the total paid but could not exceed \$15,000 per year per employee. The bill would also create an income tax credit of \$5,000 per year for members of the National Guard. Both credits are non-refundable and do not carry forward.

The Chamber stands in strong support of the legislation as it creates a strong incentive for employers to hire members of the National Guard. It also provides a nice benefit to the National Guard members who sacrifice so much for the protection of our safety and freedoms.

H.B. 2544 is good public policy and we urge the Committee to report it favorable for passage.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins