

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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LES MASON
73RD DISTRICT

February 9, 2023

Sean Tarwater, Chairman
House Committee on Commerce,
Labor and Economic Development

Mr. Chairman:

I am submitting written testimony in strong support of HB 2275. This is truly an economic development bill in that it would continue to assist in the provision of employment opportunities for those individuals who are blind or otherwise disabled. Since the inception of this statute, a few years ago, the program has been very successful, and has done exactly what we thought it would.

The economics are pretty straight-forward. There is a 15% tax credit for those buyers who purchase from a qualified vendor. I'm told that each additional \$60,000 dollars (approx) in sales, by these vendors, provides an employment opportunity to a disabled person. That's a \$9,000 tax credit. On the other hand, for each new employee that comes off of a Medicaid waiver, the state saves tens of thousands of dollars.

This is a program that turns tax consumers into taxpayers. It gives purpose and the dignity of work and a career. I thank the committee for its careful consideration of this, and would ask for favorable passage of HB 2275 to the full House for action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Les Mason".

Les Mason
Kansas House District 73