



TESTIMONY (Neutral)

On HB 2292

Before the House Commerce, Labor & Economic Dev. Committee

Presented by Andy Sanchez, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

KS AFL-CIO

February 13, 2023

Thank you Chairman Tarwater, and members of the Committee. We always appreciate the opportunity to have our voice heard here in the Statehouse. HB 2292 is a tax credit bill for employers that we have taken a Neutral stance on. The AFL-CIO has a deep and rich history in apprenticeship training. Our affiliates do not just believe in the concept of registered apprenticeship programs out of tradition but have a burning desire to see individuals reach their full potential, enjoy a skilled professional occupation and secure a future for them and their families. We know other entities share in the same concepts to help our State prosper and we believe there was no intention to disadvantage the programs of our affiliates. Our concern is that thresholds for consecutive months of employment could be difficult to maintain as we use a Multi-Employer model. Thus, there is a potential to see both our employers and apprentices miss out on this opportunity by these disqualifying requirements. Page 2, Sec. 3, Lines 23, 24 and 25. The same concern is for language just below there at Sec. 3, (2) (b), Lines 40, 41 and 42.

HB 2292 is a tax credit specifically targeted at registered apprenticeable occupations. We know that we have arrived at that benchmark of a skilled labor shortage, that we expected and talked about for so long. Our Union affiliates want to help meet the need for our state and fill jobs. The trade programs I am familiar with are well run oiled machines held accountable by compliance reviews of the Department of Labor for On-the-Job Training hours and Classroom Instruction hours. Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees, or JATC's as they are commonly referred to are self-funded, well established, a product of labor management cooperation, and regulated by state and federal departments of labor. I hope we can work out some language that allows our programs to have the same opportunity for these tax breaks. If this committee deems it worthwhile, we think we can make the bill more palatable to some of our affiliates and we do want to offer some slight alternative language to consider.

Thank You