



**House Committee on Insurance**

**Testimony in Opposition of House Bill 2283**

**Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

**Monday, February 20, 2023**

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2283, which places mandates on the use of prior authorization between providers and insurance carriers.

Each year the Kansas Chamber conducts our CEO poll to survey business owners from across the state on issues most important to the success of their company in Kansas. We ask what issues are most important to profitability, and this year, health care costs rated as the third highest concern (31%) behind taxes (39%) and energy costs (37%). This survey is a blind group of businesses designed to reflect the industrial and geographic representation of the state, as well as reflect employer size based on number of employees. We do not know if these companies are members of the Kansas Chamber or not and are pulled from the Dunn and Bradstreet list of companies in Kansas.

Most employees in Kansas receive their health insurance through their employer, so we remain sensitive to legislative efforts to increase mandates on health care policies, or changes which would adversely impact premium rates in our state. The use of prior authorization is a safeguard to protect against unnecessary health care services to allow insurance companies the ability to verify the need for requested services or prescriptions.

Most services and prescriptions are not subject to prior authorization today, so prescriptively writing privately negotiated contract terms into statute seems unnecessary. Our concern would be these statutory requirements, versus contractual agreements will adversely affect health plans offered as a benefit to employees of Kansas businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2283, and I'm happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.