



**Overland
Park
Chamber™**

To: Senator Mike Petersen and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee

From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

Date: 23 January 2023

Senator Petersen and Members of the Committee. I am Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy for the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce and I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2.

As I meet with business owners throughout Overland Park one issue is a constant – lack of workforce. Small businesses or large, they are all finding it difficult to find the employees they need to conduct their business operations at full scale. This impacts their bottom line, customer satisfaction, and our economy. Simply stated, we just do not have enough workers to fill available jobs.

The United States Chamber of Commerce recently reported that there are 11 million open jobs in the United States and only 6 million people looking for work to fill those jobs. In Kansas, a similar ratio exists. Because of this, we must do everything possible to find ways to connect workers with available jobs.

SB would allow certain people whose driving privileges have been revoked to apply for restricted driving privileges. The bill applies to relatively minor traffic infractions and has appropriate safeguards to protect public safety.

The provision of SB 2 would allow someone to continue driving to work which benefits them, their families, and their employer. We believe eliminating barriers to work are important and as such, we encourage the Committee to act favorably on this legislation.