

# GOLDWATER

## I N S T I T U T E

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Representative Sean Tarwater

Chairman, House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

RE: Support HB 2343

Chairman Tarwater, Vice-Chair Turk and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to submit testimony in support of HB 2343 on behalf of the Goldwater Institute. The Goldwater Institute works in courtrooms, capitols, and communities nationwide to protect constitutional rights and empower individuals to live freer lives. HB 2343 ensures that no-impact home-based businesses are protected against unnecessary local regulations that needlessly intrude on people's ability to work from home, while still allowing local officials to target nuisances and ensure that buildings are safe. The bill also protects homeowners operating no-impact home-based businesses against lengthy, uncertain and expensive licensing and permitting processes that bog down people's ability to work from home instead of in a traditional office.

Over the past few decades, technological advances have afforded entrepreneurs unprecedented opportunities to start businesses from their homes, allowing them to save money, maintain a flexible schedule, and realize their dreams of self-employment. Unfortunately, many cities and towns have outmoded zoning, licensing, and permitting requirements that are impeding entrepreneurs' freedom to run a business from their home.<sup>12</sup>

While local government should protect neighborhoods against nuisances, they should not impose blanket burdensome rules on home-based businesses that do not have an impact on the surrounding neighborhood. If a mother can teach her daughter to play violin in her living room, it makes no sense for the government to penalize her for teaching someone else's daughter in that same living room for money. If it's legal to do your own income taxes at your kitchen table, there's no reason an accountant should have to jump through local regulatory hoops before doing someone else's taxes in their own home. As long as entrepreneurs are not disrupting traffic, causing loud noises or creating other nuisances (which this bill still allows localities to prevent), there's no reason entrepreneurs shouldn't be free to operate a home-based business.

The Goldwater Institute proudly supports HB 2343 and urges you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,  
Brian Norman  
Director of State Affairs  
Goldwater Institute

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<sup>1</sup>[https://library.municode.com/ks/wichita/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=TIT3BUEGLI\\_CH3.96HOOC\\_S3.96.010LIREEE](https://library.municode.com/ks/wichita/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT3BUEGLI_CH3.96HOOC_S3.96.010LIREEE)

<sup>2</sup> <https://kansasjusticeinstitute.org/home-business-lawsuit-argues-people-have-a-natural-right-to-keep-bees-on-their-property/>