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House Bill No. 2103

Proponent

January 30, 2025

Thank you Chairwoman Estes and committee. On behalf of the Livestock & Meat Industry Council (LMIC) Board of Directors, this letter serves to support HB 2103 which provides the language to allow for excused absences for students participating in 4-H/FFA and other agricultural experiences.

The Livestock & Meat Industry Council, Inc (LMIC), a Kansas corporation, through primary cooperation with Kansas State University, is dedicated to facilitating interdisciplinary education and research that improves the global competitiveness and efficiency of animal and food production. The Board of Directors consists of individuals with a demonstrated record of dedication and contribution to the advancement of animal agriculture and the efficient production of food.

A portion of our efforts are dedicated to enhancing the education of students in the above areas of study with added opportunities that provide real-world experiences that are translatable into furthering their career opportunities. These life building skills are immeasurable. In addition, the connection with the LMIC and the industry connections the Board members have has been an invaluable tool to benefit many students and launch their careers.

We view the support of HB 2103 as a positive endeavor and one that would benefit numerous students because we realize that education is multifaceted. Classroom learning is only one part of education. Active participation in other avenues provides depth and breadth that cannot be duplicated in a classroom setting. We as a state owe it to our students to allow them to have this opportunity and help launch them to successful lives as productive citizens.

The LMIC Board of Directors encourages you to vote in favor of HB 2103 which provides the language to allow for these types of agricultural experiences to be considered excused absences.

With kind regards,

Dr. Justin Janssen, Chair
Livestock & Meat Industry Council