



Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2279

Kansas House Committee on Federal & State Affairs

February 17, 2025

Andrew Wiens
On behalf of
Opportunity Solutions Project

Chairman Kessler and Members of the Kansas House Committee on Federal & State Affairs:

Hello! My name is Andrew Wiens with Dugan Consulting Group, speaking with you today on behalf of Opportunity Solutions Project (OSP). OSP is a non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization dedicated to advancing policies that reduce barriers to work, protect state benefits for the truly needy, and ensure that the government is accountable to taxpayers and citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition to HB 2279.

By way of background, the REINS Act was passed to ensure that any state agency proposing rules and regulations that exceed \$1,000,000 in costs to the regulated community (those impacted by the rule) in the first five years, as determined in the economic impact statement, must pass a bill through the Legislature authorizing the regulation to go into effect.

The REINS Act strengthens transparency and political accountability. It ensures that elected representatives have the chance to weigh in on potentially burdensome rules and regulations before agencies can impose them on the public.

The REINS Act is good public policy. HB 2279 exempts the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) from the REINS Act. We should not be exempting agencies from legislative oversight of rules and regulations that could affect thousands of Kansans, and potentially cost businesses and families millions of dollars. If there is a justifiable regulation from KDWP or any other agency that costs \$1M over the five-year period, they should make their case to the people's representatives and pass a bill implementing the rule.

Additionally, the state of Kansas has a process in place (in K.S.A. 77-422) for "temporary regulations," provided that "the state agency and the state rules and regulations board finds that the preservation of the public peace, health, safety or welfare necessitates or makes desirable putting such rule and regulation into effect prior to the time it could be put into effect" under the usual process.

On a similar topic, the Legislature is also currently considering another measure, HCR 5008, which is a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow Kansas voters to decide whether to restore checks and balances by giving the Legislature the authority to oversee the adoption of administrative rules and regulations. Rules carry the force and effect of law, and increasing oversight on rules will place legislators back in the driver's seat when it comes to major policy decisions that affect businesses and families across Kansas.

We would ask that you oppose HB 2279. Thank you for your consideration.