



Dear Chairman Alley and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Patton and I am the State Director for Americans for Prosperity-Kansas. On behalf of thousands of Kansas activists, I encourage you to pass this bill favorably out of committee. The bill is about “small business” but it has a big impact on our economy. According to the Small Business Administration, **home-based businesses account for over 50 percent of all small businesses in the US. Thus, this bill could help thousands of Kansas business owners and potential business owners.**

Home-based businesses are key for entrepreneurship. Oftentimes, people with innovative business ideas may not have the money or be able to raise outside funding to afford their own commercial space. Thus, allowing home-based businesses by right would allow entrepreneurial individuals to grow their business until they can afford (or need due to growth) their own commercial or office space. Home-based businesses can be especially beneficial to business owners from traditionally more marginalized employment groups. **According to a 2022 Institute for Justice survey, over half of home-based business owners are women and over 30 percent started a home-based business due to disability.**

When we are also looking at a daycare crisis in our state because of misguided licensing and regulatory overreach, to stifle parents and women in particular from entrepreneurship or virtual, home base work would be a travesty.

We know the truth of life is that if you can do these activities for yourself in your home (music prep, taxes, homework help, haircutting, cooking, etc.), you should be able to do these same activities for outside consumers for money without requiring special permissions. For example, if a parent can help their children with homework or music practice, why can't the parent tutor other children or offer music lessons? If one can file taxes from home, why can't a CPA do other people's taxes from home as well? It is no doubt we have all seen either indirectly or directly the need and success of home-based business and we should protect this commonsense approach that is both traditional and the future of our economy.

We know home-based businesses provide great benefit to local communities, providing important services, such as daycare, handywork, tax prep, and more. In fact, with restrictions on number of occupants, parking, and signage, these home-based businesses pose little nuisance to the surrounding neighborhood. Please see my attached Appendix A for a small sampling of examples of restrictions on home-based businesses including those who sell on Etsy, Ebay and direct sales marketing.

Let's allow Kansas be a place where people can start a business and make a livelihood and be here for the long term.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Patton  
State Director  
Americans for Prosperity-Kansas