



**Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee
Testimony in Support to House Bill 2068
Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs**

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony to House Bill 2068, enacting the cosmetology compact to provide interstate practice privileges.

The Kansas Chamber formed the Military and Veteran Affairs Council in 2023. The mission of the Military and Veterans Affairs Council is to provide a unified voice to support and grow our state's military institutions and to build stronger relationships between the servicemember and employer communities.

A legislative issue that was brought to our attention through the Military and Veteran Affairs Council was occupational licensing compacts. These compacts are Department of Defense initiatives for states to pass and implement for military spouses and families moving across the country. These interstate compacts streamline the transfer of occupational licenses across state lines. The compacts do not add any additional licensing requirements, change the Kansas licensing requirements for occupations, nor change the continuing education requirements.

According to recent data, Kansas has seen a decline in 805 cosmetology licenses (2.9%) from last year. House Bill 2068 will not only help military spouses who are cosmetologist's licensee holders but allow cosmetologists from other states, which have passed this compact, the option to have their license recognized in Kansas.

In closing the Kansas Chamber views this compact as a necessary step to increase access to cosmetology care for Kansans, without sacrificing any safety concerns and fast track the licensing process for military spouses moving into our state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2068, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.