



**Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
Testimony in Support to House Bill 2069
Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs**

Tuesday, March 4, 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 2069, enacting the school psychologist's licensure compact to provide interstate practice privileges for school psychologists.

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.

Kansas has a significant need across the state for school psychologists. According to the *National Association of School Psychologists* the recommended ratio for school psychologists to students is 1:500. Kansas ranks 23rd nationally with a state average of 1:1,069. School psychologists address challenges with students academically, behaviorally, and emotionally which can play a critical role in increasing a student's success.

We offered the House Health and Human Services Committee two friendly amendments which were technical changes to the bill. As you have heard in order for these compacts to work it is important the language remains uniform with what has passed in other states. Those amendments were made in Committee on the House side.

In closing the Kansas Chamber views this compact as a necessary step to increase access to school psychologists for Kansas students 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 2069, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.