



Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Proponent Testimony to House Bill 2223

Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Thursday, January 29, 2026

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 2223, a bill modifying the scope of practice for optometrists.

House Bill 2223 would allow optometrists to perform procedures they are trained to do in optometry school. Medical technology advancements have enhanced and continue to improve for patient care and most importantly patient outcomes. Unfortunately, our state statutes for optometrists have not kept up with the advances of education and medical technology.

House Bill 2223 would increase access to care for Kansans seeking optometry treatment and would save patient time if optometrists were allowed to perform these procedures. We also believe the passage of this legislation would assist all optometrists and their practices to recruit and retain doctors. This legislation would allow graduate optometrists to practice the skills they are provided in their training and education. It is important to note Kansas would not be the first to modernize this scope of practice. Fourteen other states, including Colorado, Oklahoma, and Arkansas optometrists are allowed to perform these services for their patients.

The Kansas Chamber will continue to advocate for the reform of our healthcare statutes to keep pace with the advancements of medical technology while not sacrificing the safety for Kansans seeking and receiving treatment. This is simply allowing optometrists to perform procedures they are trained to perform.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2223, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.