



**“The Chamber of Commerce for the Kansas
Construction Industry”**

**HB 2442
Proponent Testimony
House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Scott Schneider, Hinkle Law Firm
March 22, 2021**

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, my name is Scott Schneider and I’m here representing the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Kansas. AGC is recognized as the “Chamber of Commerce for the Kansas Construction Industry.” AGC of Kansas represents over 300 Kansas construction firms and their 9,000 employees. We support HB 2442 because it allows a school to utilize an existing resource to build hands on knowledge and can broaden our student’s practical real life experiences. With this bill, a business that accepts a secondary student in a work-based learning program shall not be subject to civil liability for any claim arising from the student's negligent act or omission during the student's participation in the work-based learning program at the business or worksite.

With Kansas currently being ranked 48th in the U.S. for out-migration of population, one of the main reasons for this is that our younger generation are unaware of the many industries in Kansas and if these young women/men do know of an industry they are not aware of how to apply for these professional careers. We believe HB 2442 can be used as a tool to encourage our students to not just get educated, but to also find a place in the Kansas economy.

This bill helps our schools and businesses understand how to evaluate the risks associated with creating a work-based learning program. These programs include work study, on-the-job training, job shadowing, internships, clinicals, practicums, apprenticeships, co-ops and industry-led service-learning projects. Additionally to receive this coverage for the student, a business has to have entered into an agreement with a school. It is also important to note, the learning program cannot provide the student with compensation. Finally, the bill does not provide immunity nor absolves the business or the student from civil liability arising from gross negligence or willful misconduct.

As background, our industry doesn’t stand on the sidelines encouraging the legislature to solve our workforce needs. We have spent millions building the largest private sector educational partnership in Kansas and our programs are currently in over 125 High-School, Community College and Vo-Tech partners utilizing AGC’s NCCER craft training materials. Additionally, we have currently launched **“Build Up Kansas”** – www.buildupks.com to speak to our youth where they are looking – social media. Build up Kansas Targets 17-22 year old women/men and their parents and informs them of the opportunities currently in Kansas.

In closing, Kansas is well positioned to secure future Fortune 500 industries locating to our great state in that we have an abundance of land, a good business environment but we still have work to do in creating a regional approach to workforce training.