



EQUALITY ♦ LAW ♦ JUSTICE

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Proponent for HB 2443
House Commerce, Labor & Economic Development Committee
March 23, 2021

Chairman Tarwater and members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Burgess. I am the Director of Policy & Outreach at the Disability Rights Center of Kansas (DRC). DRC is a public interest legal advocacy organization that is part of a national network of federally mandated organizations empowered to advocate for Kansans with disabilities. DRC is the officially designated protection and advocacy system in Kansas. DRC is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, organizationally independent of state government and whose sole interest is the protection of the legal rights of Kansans with disabilities.

I am writing today to share our support for HB 2443, which would put into statute a policy that is similar to E.O. 15-02, but would apply to additional agencies. Both the existing Executive Order and this bill if implemented along with the key findings and recommendations from the report the Department of Administration commissioned in 2018 have the potential to turn the State of Kansas into a model employer for Kansans with disabilities.

Other conferees will suggest an amendment to name this bill after a friend who is a very talented disability advocate. We also support that amendment.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for HB2443.