



**Overland
Park
Chamber™**

**To: Representative Sean Tarwater and Members of the House Committee on
Commerce, Labor and Economic Development**

**From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce**

Date: 13 February 2023

Chairman Tarwater and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2292 – legislation that would create a tax credit for apprenticeships.

Registered apprenticeships can help prepare workers with the technical skills they need to gain meaningful employment in a variety of industries including our traditional skilled trades and other industries like information technology, transportation, and logistics. The programs provide customized training that ensures workers have the specialized skills they need to enjoy a lucrative career while helping their employer thrive.

The tax credit offered through this legislation will encourage Kansas employers to support the registered apprenticeship program and provide employers with one additional solution to the largest challenge many of them face today – a lack of qualified employees. Additionally, it has been reported that apprenticeships boost workers' earnings and increase productivity levels. This is a win-win scenario for the employee and employer and a key reason why we support the legislation.

We do understand some stakeholders have concerns with elements of the legislation related to the continuous employment provisions in Section Three of the bill. We are

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happy to discuss these concerns and work toward mutually agreeable language to bring more support to the legislation.

We believe the tax credits offered in this legislation will support increased use of the apprenticeship model and as such the Overland Park Chamber encourages the committee to act favorably on HB 2292.