



Wednesday, February 15, 2023

House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2333

Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2333.

HB 2333 fixes an issue that has been a continued problem for employers seeking to hire job applicants. Employers have reported the issue where UI claimants apply for job openings but fail to show for an interview. Kansas statute requires UI claimants to actively seek work and employers may currently report to the department of labor when an individual refuses an offer.

HB 2333 clarifies that they may also report claimants when they refuse a “suitable offer,” or fails to appear for a job interview without notifying the employer of the need to cancel or reschedule. In today’s job market, there are roughly two job openings for every individual on unemployment insurance. HB 2333 provides explicit guidance for employers and employees on eligibility for individuals to maintain benefits while actively searching for employment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2333 and I’m happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.