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SHANNON FRANCIS
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Chairman Tarwater and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify in favor of HB 2826 today. HB 2826 is a bill to correct deficiencies in the Elevator Safety Act. I have heard numerous concerns about how this act is being implemented, workforce shortages in the industry, and massive increases in operational costs by businesses and local government for compliance.

The licensing requirements for inspectors and elevator mechanics in this act as it currently stands are unfeasible, especially in western Kansas. Licensed mechanics and inspectors are required to have over 8,000 hours of experience. You won't find that explicitly in the bill, but it is hidden in the rules and standards referenced in the current act. The annual inspections, in addition to the maintenance contract, add to the inability of the existing workforce to meet the requirements of this act and increases compliances costs by owners.

One of my constituents was told of a test he had to do that cost \$5,528.00 for a small condominium building. I have heard of businesses being told of improvements required by the act that were not in fact required. Such as sprinkler systems in hospitals and upgrades to an audio visually monitored system.

I'm concerned about my small church. Our sanctuary is on the second floor and our older members need the elevator to get there. It's only used once a week, but this act requires the same compliance as a business's elevators that are used 24/7. My church also has a chairlift that requires inspection. These additional costs plus any upgrades the elevator company may say are required could bankrupt my church and will at a minimum take scarce resources away from our mission work.

In closing there are many problems with the existing act. HB 2826 moves Kansas forward to a responsible elevator act that can improve public safety and without oppressively regulating and increasing costs for public entities and businesses.