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**House Judiciary Committee  
February 6, 2023  
Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2215  
Stephen P. Duerst, JD – Federico // Duerst Consulting Group**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Stephen Duerst and I appear here today on behalf of the Federico // Duerst Consulting Group, and our client, Quest Diagnostics. Quest is one of the largest providers of laboratory diagnostic information services in the world. They serve healthcare providers, employers, and other similar organizations on a daily basis, largely by testing samples and, in return, providing diagnostic information from those samples to their clients in a variety of ways. Unique to Kansas, Quest operates a state-of-the-art Regional Hub laboratory and National Operations Center in Lenexa. It employes over 1,600 employees in the area, collects specimens during 3,750 daily clinic visits across the state and Midwest and transports specimens to the lab on 5 daily flights.

Currently Quest, and other similar laboratory diagnostics companies, face a unique challenge when performing services for their clients, such as Federally-mandated pre-employment and random drug testing screenings. Specifically, synthetic urine has been an increasingly popular tool for individuals to use to try and subvert a “positive” drug test. Diagnostics companies like Quest have seen a rise in the use of synthetic urine, which can easily be purchased online and in some retail establishments. The fraud that is being committed costs employers additional money and prevents companies like Quest from properly performing the task they have been hired to perform.

The law before you today would create the new definition of “drug-masking product” and would make the use of such a product a misdemeanor. Kansas would join at least 18 other states with similar laws to help combat the rise in invalid specimens, which Quest notes has doubled nationwide in the last 10 years. Further, much of this increase – 73% - has occurred in the last 5 years.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your time today. I ask that you support HB 2215 and help prevent this fraudulent activity which is hurting employers who ask for these drug tests, as well as the laboratory diagnostic companies, such as Quest, who process these specimens.