



House Committee on Judiciary

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2593- Arbitration Clauses

Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber

Monday, February 12, 2024

Madam Chair 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 opposition to House Bill 2593.

HB 2593 is a bow-tied gift to trial lawyers in Kansas and erodes the ability of parties to privately negotiate terms of their contract as a mutually agreed upon way of avoiding costly litigation. Two weeks ago, several proponents of this bill stood before you arguing that a simple bill of disclosure- NOT prohibition of such acts- are an unconscionable violation of a party's right to choose what's best for them.

Arbitration clauses are important and yes, sometimes necessary provisions of contracts to help keep disputes out of court. These clauses protect both businesses and insurers from high costs associated with litigation. HB 2593 would make these provisions against state law, benefitting only attorneys at the detriment of everyone else.

In closing, we strongly oppose House Bill 2593 and ask that the committee not support this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I'm happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.