



House Committee on Local Government
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2704- Home-based businesses
Presented by Eric Stafford, VP of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber

Monday, February 19, 2024

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 2704, which aims to ease restrictions by municipalities on home-based businesses in the state.

A quick search of businesses started from a home garage shows a laundry list of now popular brands: Harley Davidson, Dell computers, Nike, Yankee Candle, Microsoft, Mattel to name a few. HB 2704 adopts a balance between a uniform set of rules and flexibility for municipalities to reasonably regulate home-based businesses to prevent a nuisance situation for other homeowners in the neighborhood.

HB 2704 would put Kansas in a position to loosen restrictions on start-up and small businesses, similar to states like Iowa, Florida, Utah and others who understand how restrictive regulations can harm newly formed businesses from achieving success. The bill maintains local control and allows for business licensure like they are allowed today, but would allow for the sale of goods and services so long as the activity takes place inside the dwelling or in the yard and are not visible from the street or result in a substantial increase of traffic in the area.

In closing, we would ask for your support of House Bill 2704, as this is a sound, reasonable approach to help small businesses while protecting cities ability to reasonably regulate these businesses.