



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

### Senate Committee on Commerce

### Testimony in Support of House Bill 2234

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Good morning, Chair Erickson and Members of the Committee. I am Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities at the Kansas Board of Regents, and I am here today to speak on behalf of the Board and the state universities in support of House Bill 2234.

The bill contains two proposed amendments to current law. First, the bill increases the limits for contracting for services by architects and engineers without convening a negotiating committee and provides for an annual inflationary adjustment based on CPI going forward. Second, the bill stipulates that the limit be based on the expected construction cost of a project. With these amendments, the current limit of \$1.0 million in expected total project costs for architects and engineers would be increased to \$1.5 million in expected construction costs for FY 24 with an annual inflationary adjustment based on CPI beginning in FY 25. Projects under the maximum amount could be performed by licensed agency professionals, Department of Administration professionals or by on-call architects/engineers who have been retained for defined terms after having gone through an established qualifications-based competitive procurement process.

The existing limits have been in place since 2015 and we consider the proposed limits to be reasonable, based on current market conditions, consistent upward trends in project costs as noted in the graph on the following page, and the capabilities of the affected agencies, the Department of Administration, and on-call professionals. In the graph I have also noted for you the points in time when the threshold in the statute was amended.

This amendment would reduce the time expended for advertising, reviewing qualifications, short-listing, interviewing, and selecting design professionals. It would also reduce the time and money spent by architectural and engineering firms generating materials, traveling, and preparing for interviews.

We urge passage of HB 2234.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before your Committee today. I am happy to stand for questions.

**Construction Inflation Compared with Increases to Consultant On-Call Limits Since 2000**

