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House Bill 2123 / Office of Entrepreneurship & 5% to Start

Proponent

Oral in-Person & Written Testimony

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I support House Bill 2123.

My name is Zoey Bond, and I am the Executive Director of the Council Grove Trade & Tourism Association. I am also an entrepreneur and an Advocate with Right to Start. In these roles, I meet daily with our Kansas entrepreneurs in and around the greater Council Grove area, and I know from hearing their stories the many barriers they face.

The positive impact that both an Office of Entrepreneurship and ‘5% to Start’ would have on entrepreneurs, especially those in rural communities, is immense.

Entrepreneurship is the American dream. However, the barriers our systems have put up, along with a lack of access to resources, has made this dream unattainable for many. I believe this bill is a thoughtful and needed response and will be a powerful tool for entrepreneurial empowerment.

Our entrepreneurial ecosystem is poised to do great things in Kansas. The revival of Council Grove over the past half-decade can be directly attributed to the risks, investments, and fortitude of the small business owners that work to preserve our historic buildings, create a better economy with well-paying jobs for our citizens and contribute to the overall aesthetics and charm that drive our travel and tourism industry.

Now, more than ever, Kansas entrepreneurs need our government’s support and meaningful policy to continue the groundwork these citizens have so boldly and independently laid on all of our behalfs.

I am proud of the work I do daily to give rural Kansans every opportunity they deserve to find success in Morris County. I believe this bill will serve us well and offer the tools and resources entrepreneurs need to spark and continue growth in the Flint Hills.