



Written Proponent Testimony, HB 2123  
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
February 1, 2023

**Sherry Turner, OneKC for Women**

Dear Chairman Tarwater and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2123, enacting the Right-to-Start Act.

My name is Sherry Turner, and I am the EVP of Operations for OneKC for Women, an umbrella alliance of the Women’s Business Center, the Women’s Capitol Connection, the Women’s Employment Network, and the Women Lead Initiative. The Women’s Business Center, located in Johnson County, is one of 100 such organizations in the U.S. We counsel and mentor women in all stages of business development and growth. We do this through classes, seminars, peer roundtables, one-on-one consultation, networking, and referrals. We also educate women entrepreneurs on sources of funding including angel funding through the Women’s Capitol Connection (WCC). WCC is a regional network of female accredited angel investors dedicated to identifying and funding the most promising women-led ventures in the Midwest.

As I’m sure you will hear from today’s testimony, start-up businesses create almost all new net jobs in this country. In addition, women start businesses at one and a half times the rate of men, and now represent 49% of all businesses. In the United States, over 1800 net new women-owned business are added per day. Even so, women continue to face challenges in starting, financing, and growing their businesses to scale. Starting a business isn’t easy for anyone, nor should it be. But in Kansas, early-stage businesses and startups fight more of an uphill battle than early-stage businesses in surrounding states.

The Right to Start Act, with its 5% for small business funding and contracts, elimination of all first-year business fees, and establishment of the Office of Entrepreneurship, signals to new business owners that Kansas recognizes the importance of entrepreneurship to the overall health of our state’s economy and is committed to proven policies and programs to support these new business creators.

I urge your support for HB 2123.

Sherry Turner  
EVP, OneKC for Women