

**Testimony before House Commerce, Labor and
Economic Development
House Bill 2069- Paid Sick Leave/Time Off
Presented by Eric Stafford, Senior Director of Government Affairs**



Thursday, February 14, 2013

Mister Chairman and members of the committee:

My name is Eric Stafford. I am the Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2069, with concerns.

There is a growing trend of states and local units of government mandating paid sick leave and paid time off, a benefit not required by the federal government. These policies have the largest impact on small businesses that are reliant on part-time employees for their business.

House Bill 2069 would prevent local units of government from requiring paid sick leave or paid time off from work. These policies put businesses at an economic disadvantage to competitors, either within the same state, or metropolitan area. For example, if the city of Topeka were to pass such an ordinance or law, but Shawnee County did not, businesses inside city limits would face an additional financial burdens than those outside the city limits.

This bill also prohibits local units of government from requiring more than minimum wage as required by law.

While we support the concepts of HB 2069, we would recommend striking the language in Section 1 referencing “economic development initiative.” Many local units of government when creating an economic development package for a potential business include language stating the business will provide a certain number of jobs which pay a certain wage. These incentive plans are structured to bring high-wage jobs to their community. If this language remains in the bill, such economic development incentives would not be allowed.

To close, we do not believe local governments should be adding additional mandates on businesses that are not required by federal law. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 2069. We encourage your support for amending and passing HB 2069.



The Kansas Chamber, with headquarters in Topeka, is the leading statewide pro-business advocacy group moving Kansas towards becoming the best state in America to do business. The Chamber represents small, medium and large employers all across Kansas.