



March 2, 2022

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1,500 members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Concurrent Resolution 5014, A PROPOSITION to amend article 1 of the constitution of the state of Kansas by adding a new section thereto, concerning oversight by the legislature of certain executive branch actions.

HCR 5014 would amend the Kansas Constitution to create a new section in Article 1 concerning legislative oversight of administrative rules and regulations. The new section would provide that, whenever the Legislature by law has authorized any officer or agency within the executive branch to adopt rules and regulations that have the force and effect of law, the Legislature may provide by law for revocation or suspension of any such rules and regulation, or any portion thereof, by a majority vote of the members of both the House and Senate.

The Chamber stands in strong support of HCR 5014 as we believe it is necessary and prudent public policy that Kansas citizens should have the opportunity to vote on. Rules and regulations often have the force and effect of law, impacting business operations and even the everyday lives of ordinary Kansans. Sometime those effects are necessary and good. However, sometimes those effects are problematic and disruptive to business, the state economy and even infringe on the peoples' freedoms. In those latter times the peoples' duly elected representatives in the legislative branch should be able to act quickly in the best interest of their constituents.

Our founders created a system whereby the legislative branch enacted laws. They never envisioned a system where presidents and governors - members of the executive branch - made laws. Governments, including the Kansas government, have grown to a point of size, influence and power that we believe would be unrecognizable to the founders of our great state. The sheer size of government and the scope of issues government now reaches requires agencies to promulgate rules and regulations. However, we too often see agencies overstep, overrule and overregulate. This is troubling, but it is especially problematic when we see agencies circumvent legislative process when it disagrees with legislative action or inaction related to public policy. Simply stated, some rules and regulations are adopted in place and in spite of decisions made by the legislative branch. It is in these times, especially, that powers between the executive branch and the legislative branch be properly rebalanced. HCR 5014 is that rebalancing tool.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to favorably pass HCR 5014.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins