



Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 253

Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 253, which creates the option for licensed retailers to deliver alcohol and CMB products to their customers.

Kansas has made great strides in recent years to modernize our state laws and reduce barriers to increase consumer options in a wide range of industries- from access to single-strength beer to health care. We ask this committee to build on the progress made and get government out of the way and allow businesses to operate. As approved by our board of directors in December, the Chamber's legislative agenda Regulatory Affairs section adopts a policy position to ***“Encourage the least restrictive method of regulation that supports the goal of protecting the public without limiting competition.”***

SB 253 is another step in the right direction to continue modernizing our state's alcohol and CMB laws, and a policy change that really came about through the temporary regulations experienced in alcoholic beverages throughout the pandemic. Consumers saw behavior and habits change through innovation and convenience of technology where restaurants were granted the ability to provide drinks-to-go. Apps for food and grocery delivery services have become prominent in our daily lives. As we see evolution take shape through developments and technology and innovation, our laws must also evolve to allow consumers choice and access to legal products.

In closing, we respectfully ask the committee to support Senate Bill 253. Merging available technology with Kansas liquor laws is a great win for both Kansas consumers and allows businesses, small and large, to flourish. I'm happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.