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March 13, 2017

Dear Chairperson Senator Caryn Tyson and Committee Members,

My name is James Quillen, Vice-President/COO at OCCK, Inc. OCCK is in its 47th year of operation. We provide a variety of services including employment to 3,000 people with disabilities annually. We provide services in a nine county area in north central Kansas.

OCCK supports Senate Bill 211. We believe that this bill will incentivize private sector companies to contract or sub-contract with qualified state use law vendors or other not-for-profit organizations, opening up additional opportunities for employment for people with disabilities.

The Interhab Employment Resource Network is a network of nearly 30 not-for-profit agencies from all across Kansas working to change employment systems for people with disabilities. This network strives to make an array of employment opportunities available to people with disabilities. The Network also supports Senate Bill 211 and believes that it will encourage private businesses to purchase services from qualified state use vendors and not-for-profit agencies opening up additional opportunities for employment for people with disabilities.

Employment is an important aspect of all of our lives. It increases self-esteem, gives us a sense of belonging to our community, and encourages independence.

I would respectfully ask for this committee's support to assist state use law vendors and other not-for-profit agencies to provide additional employment opportunities for people with disabilities and support Senate Bill 211.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Quillen', written in a cursive style.

James Quillen
Vice-President/COO
OCCK, Inc.