

To: Senator Caryn Tyson and Members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation

Committee

From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

Date: 8 February 2022

Senator Tyson and members of the Committee, my name is Kevin Walker and I am Senior Vice President of Public Policy for the Overland Park Chamber. I am submitting testimony in support of HB 2316.

This bill allows retailers the opportunity to assess a credit card surcharge on credit and debit transactions. We believe this is an issue of fairness and competitiveness. Currently this practice of assessing a surcharge is legal in only a small number of states – including Kansas - and there is a trail of litigation that suggests it may not be legal even in these jurisdictions.

Many consider the acceptance of credit cards to simply be a cost of doing business. However, the increasing use of debit and credit cards means that businesses are absorbing these costs or passing them along through higher priced products without fully disclosing the charges to consumers.

Governmental entities in Kansas are afforded the opportunity to assess the surcharge thus giving their customers full transparency in what constitutes their total amount due. We believe it is time for retailers to be given the same opportunity.