

**Senate Committee on Taxation
Opposition to Senate Bill 39
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**



Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 39 because of our member's concern over proposed changes in the bill.

Our opposition to Senate Bill 39 is limited to two sections. On pages four and seven of the bill, proposed new language reads the secretary may:

“disclose taxpayer information in any administrative proceeding or any civil or criminal action or proceeding brought to enforce the tax or revenue laws of this state with respect to such taxpayer.”

Initially, we were alerted to this bill by one of our tax attorneys within our membership. After discussing their concerns, we sent this bill out to our full tax work group for further feedback, and unanimously our member tax experts asked that we oppose this new language. They are unclear as to why in any circumstance confidential taxpayer information should be made available in any administrative proceeding, or civil or criminal action, and have strong concerns over efforts to loosen standards of confidential taxpayer information.

We would respectfully ask this committee to remove the language from the bill. We do not have any additional concerns with other changes proposed under Senate Bill 39. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 39 and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.



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.