



**House Commerce Committee
February 9, 2021
Written Testimony in favor of HB 2196**

Chairman Tarwater and honorable committee members,

The Olathe Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber in Johnson County and the second largest chamber in the Kansas City area. Comprised of 1,300 members and growing, it was the first chamber in the state to receive 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – a designation obtained by less than 1 percent of the nation’s chambers. Its mission is to be the voice of business that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe.

As the Olathe Chamber’s CEO, I am submitting this written testimony in favor of HB 2196. This bill proposes several needed reforms to the Kansas Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (Fund), particularly the modernization of our very antiquated platform used to administer it. In addition, we are supportive of the indemnification provisions that provide relief to Kansas employers from the unprecedented number of fraudulent claims paid out of the Fund. We believe these proposals, as well as many others set out in HB 2196, will protect, and bring much needed reform and stability to the Fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in favor of HB 2196. I appreciate your efforts in reviewing the issues confronting the Kansas Unemployment Insurance System and look forward to working with you to resolve the issues. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 913.764.1050.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tim McKee'.

Tim McKee, CEO
Olathe Chamber of Commerce