



**Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations
Proposed Changes to Workers Compensation Regulations by the Department of Labor
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber**

Monday, November 15, 2021

Madam Chair 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 today with concerns related to the proposed regulation changes from the department of labor focused on workers compensation.

Our testimony is brief. To quickly summarize, we feel these proposed regulations by the department are too substantive in nature and will have a significant impact on the laws in our state and in some cases seek to overturn laws passed by the Kansas Legislature. On behalf of our members, we respectfully ask that this committee not adopt the proposed rules and do what you can to ensure they do not move forward.

Some of these regulations propose to implement new notice requirements. Another would significantly undercut the statutory requirement that the employer designate the authorized treating physician. Another would modify the calculation method of the average weekly wage. These are all significant policy changes, not regulations to assist the agency when carrying out existing law.

We've seen federal abuse of regulatory power to pass policy, and now this behavior appears to be bleeding into the behavior of Kansas agencies. We urge your opposition to these proposed changes, and we are happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.