



**House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development**  
**Proponent Testimony on House Bill 2826**  
**Presented by William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

Mister Chair and members of the committee, my name is William Wilk, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium, and large-sized businesses across the state advocating for policies to improve the economic climate in Kansas. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on House Bill 2826, a bill modifying licensure and inspection requirements for elevator safety.

This bill would provide several regulatory changes when it comes to elevator safety and save businesses costs when updating an elevator. While safety is the utmost priority for all day-to-day operations of businesses, the cost of updating an elevator can be tremendously expensive. We have heard from several businesses that the cost just for an inspection of the elevator can be hundreds or even thousands of dollars. This bill would cap the inspection fee of an elevator at \$250. Most elevators have maintenance agreements when installed and receive yearly check-ins and the issue will be resolved then not requiring an inspection.

Another issue this bill addresses is licensing requirements for elevator mechanics. Currently to be a licensed elevator mechanic you need 8,000 hours of training or can go through a 5-year union program. Prior to the *Elevator Safety Act* passed in 2022, there were no requirements for elevator mechanic licensing. This bill would allow individuals seeking an elevator mechanic license to go through trade school or pass a test created by the State Fire Marshall.

Lastly, we would like to point out some concerns with the Kansas Elevator Safety Advisory Board. This board has the authority to require a business to update an elevator. There are representatives from elevator parts companies who serve on this board who could be putting their company's self-interest above the safety of Kansans in elevators. These costs can be burdensome to property owners when updating an elevator and given the makeup of this board, we strongly question whether this legislation was to protect the public safety, or advance professional interests for the industry.

In closing, we believe House Bill 2826 will protect building owners without reducing public safety when it comes to the operation of elevators. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2826, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have at the appropriate time.