

Senate Committee on Transparency and Ethics
Testimony in Favor of HB 2297
Natalie S. Bright
March 17, 2021

Chair Bowers and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you in favor of HB 2297 on behalf of the Coalition for Opportunity, a group of organizations who directly employ persons with disabilities. Unfortunately, the highest rate of unemployment consistently remains with the disabled population. Through concerted efforts by our Coalition members, many Kansans with disabilities have found competitive employment opportunities, however, the demand for employment for disabled persons remains great.

HB 2297 proposes to grant the Secretary of State's office the authority to outsource printing and binding services to private sector businesses in accordance with the State's procurement and bidding statutes. Our Coalition members are constantly seeking new business opportunities so they may continue to fund their missions to serve and employ Kansas who are blind and disabled. Passage of HB 2297 allows for an opportunity for our Coalition members to bid for a new book of printing business, which ultimately will lead to new opportunities for our clients to have meaningful employment. In addition, I am certain passage of HB 2297 will provide more efficient and quality printing for the Secretary of State's office.

On behalf of the members of the Coalition for Opportunity, I respectfully request you pass HB 2279.