



**Senate Committee on Transparency and Ethics
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2297
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, March 17, 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 in support of House Bill 2297, which would grant discretion to the Secretary of State to utilize private market sources for the printing and binding services for the state.

Several years ago the state paid for and received an efficiency study from the firm Alvarez & Marsal on areas where the state can deliver services more efficiently. Some of those recommendations suggested outsourcing more services to the private sector. While this specific proposal was not part of that study, we maintain a strong position against government competition with the private sector if services are available to deliver products at a lower cost to taxpayers.

HB 2297 would grant the Secretary of State's office the authority to potentially outsource printing and binding services to private sector companies (page 6, section 9, and New Section 1, page 1), in accordance with the state's procurement and bidding statutes. If this change would allow private companies the chance to fairly compete for these services, we believe that is a positive change.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2297, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.