

TO: The Honorable Steve Brunk, Chair
House Federal & State Affairs Committee

FROM: William W. Sneed, Legislative Counsel
Kansas Unified Development

SUBJECT: S. B. 276

DATE: March 6, 2012

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: My name is Bill Sneed and I represent Kansas Unified Development ("KUD") and KC American Sportservice, LLC, (KC American Sportservice). On behalf of our clients, we commend the ABC for requesting SB 276 and we are strongly in support of S.B. 276, as adopted by the Kansas Senate. KUD is the owner of Livestrong Sporting Park - the home stadium of Sporting Kansas City Soccer Club of Major League Soccer. KC American Sportservice, a subsidiary of Delaware North Companies (a national concessionaire company), is the food and beverage concessionaire for the stadium. Livestrong Sporting Park opened in 2011, as a state-of-the-art, \$200 million, 18,500-seat, outdoor, soccer specific stadium, located in the Village West Tourism District in Kansas City, Kansas.

The operation of Livestrong Sporting Park requires the employment of hundreds of persons. As most of the events are connected to the Major League Soccer season, the employment is seasonal in nature. The hiring and training of so many employees is very rigorous and extremely costly. This is exacerbated by the fact that this type of employment tends to be very transient. Considering the limited number of events that are held each season at the stadium (typically there are only 17 home games per season, plus playoff games and select tournament games) the employer cost per employee is very high compared to a restaurant or bar which are open year-round.

Because of these high employment costs, KUD and KC Americansportservice must be very discreet in their hiring practices seeking only the most highly qualified candidates. Employment history and background are carefully examined before an offer is made for employment. The Kansas Senate amended S.B. 276 to remove a proposal by ABC to require employers to perform background checks on every employee prior to their hiring. This would require paying for a separate service at substantial costs to screen employees that have already been thoroughly screened. This would add thousands of dollars to an already extremely costly employment process and is unnecessary. It would also dramatically alter existing law by shifting these costs to the employer. We contend that having background checks be completed is unnecessary whether it is done by the employer or ABC.

We are also supportive of the Kansas Senate's removal of language that would restrict the types of employees that could be hired. The effect of the current law reduces job opportunities

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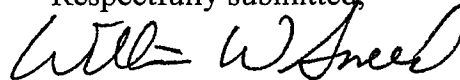
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among a distinct pool of potential employees. Given the extensive screening process already undertaken by the employer, this is unnecessary and simply a case of government dictating who an employer may or may not hire. This does not comport with our system of free enterprise and acts as a handcuff on business.

Respectfully submitted,



William W. Sneed

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