



Chairwoman Lynn and members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

My name is Don Alexander, I am the co-chair of the Southeast Kansas Inc. (SEK) Legislative Committee and President-elect of SEK Inc.

The Position Statement of SEK Inc. is “to support efforts to promote work skills and help those in dependency and generational poverty gain the skills to enter into the workforce, possibly including drug testing and treatment along with life skills training to help break the poverty cycle.”

As an employer and involved citizen in SEK I have seen the effects of drug use in the community, hurting the business world but more importantly hurting the community and family. I have had the burden of firing people for abuse of almost every illegal substance. Living in a small community and knowing all of these people personally, I have seen some continue to down that destructive path. More importantly, I have also seen several individuals use the instance of losing their job as the motivating factor in changing their lives for the better. It is encouraging to see those people about town and see them now living happy, productive lives, some even going back to junior college and now working very good jobs. To me this bill is not about saving money, it is not about punishing anyone, it is about motivating and empowering people to get back into life.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for SB 149. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 620.423.2784 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

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