

**Testimony before Senate Education Committee  
SB 22 – Extension of TEA  
Presented by Mike O’Neal, President & CEO**



**Wednesday, February 6, 2013**

**Chairman Abrams and members of the Senate Education Committee:**

As the President & CEO of the Kansas Chamber, it is a privilege to stand in support of S.B. 22. Consistent with its vision of making Kansas the best state in the nation to do business, we at the Kansas Chamber stand in support of extending to 2017 the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority as it works to fulfill its mission to align education with business and industry in the state and its vision of educating a quality, skilled workforce matching the needs and demands of business and industry in the state.

The Kansas Chamber believes this is a great example of business and higher education working corroboratively to produce the type and quality of workers we need. Career and technical education is a critical component of a solid school-to-work process but corroboration between the educational delivery system and business as the ultimate consumer of the educational product is essential. The TEA serves a vital function in aligning education with business and ensuring an ongoing dialogue and partnership between business and education.



*The Kansas Chamber, with headquarters in Topeka, is the leading statewide pro-business advocacy group moving Kansas towards becoming the best state in America to do business. The Chamber represents small, medium and large employers all across Kansas.*