

Chairman Barker and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

Wichita State University is opposed to the passage of HB 2201 in its current form. If passed, this legislation would add a staggering amount of government bureaucracy and regulation to a process that is designed to create efficiencies and savings for Wichita State University.

WSU is in the process of developing its Innovation Campus that entails 125 acres of development that is made possible through public and private partnerships where private developers construct buildings at their cost and liability and businesses lease from those developers while utilizing our students and research capabilities. For these projects to be possible, the university has had to think of new and creative ways to be flexible to accommodate the needs of private business including contractual services that may be impacted by this legislation.

In order to maximize our institution's public dollars, WSU has strategically contracted some of its peripheral expenses. One example is custodial work for certain buildings on the new Innovation Campus. If this legislation was enacted, WSU would have to analyze the associated FTE cost for that contractor, hourly wage rates as well as previous years cost for comparison analysis for the Department of Administration. The information would have to be updated on a quarterly basis with the Department of Administration for the duration of the contract creating more burdens on university staff to comply with the law.

For WSU to execute a contract of more than \$25,000, the university would have to perform a detailed analysis that concludes there is a 10% savings to the university. I would suggest that the legislation is unnecessary, because the university would only enter into contractual arrangement with an outside entity if we were either unable to perform a function ourselves or if it was too costly to perform it ourselves. In addition, the Department of Administration would have to assemble an economic analysis reviewing the impact to the local economy and that report would have to be presented to the general public at a meeting prior to entering into the contract.

Wichita State University believes that HB 2201 is an unnecessary piece of legislation that is well-intentioned but would ultimately do more harm than good. The very efficiencies that state agencies have been encouraged to pursue for the last several years would certainly become less attractive with the additional regulations and bureaucratic obstacles placed in this legislation.

John Bardo
President
Wichita State University