



**House Committee on Judiciary
Testimony in Opposition to HB 2291 and HB 2332
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bills 2291 and 2332.

HB 2291 increases the cap in wrongful death action from \$250,000 to \$500,000 and ties future increases to inflation starting in 2020, while HB 2332 would expand damages to cover punitive or exemplary damages. Those punitive damages would be excluded from the \$250,000 cap.

Increasing the cap for wrongful death actions will no doubt result in an increase in premiums for Kansas businesses. A 100% increase in caps included in HB 2291, and expansion to allow for punitive damages included in HB 2332 is a policy change we cannot to support.

It is our belief that Kansas wrongful death statutes currently provide reasonable means to collect damages for those rightfully entitled to a claim.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bills 2291 and 2332, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.