



January 27, 2020

Kansas State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Chairwoman McGinn, Ranking Member Hawk, and members of the Committee. My name is Elizabeth Patton, Deputy State Director for Americans for Prosperity-KS. Thank you for holding this hearing and for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Through broad-based grassroots outreach, Americans for Prosperity (AFP) activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping one another.

I'm here today on their behalf to urge you to support SB 244. This legislation would open the doors for a more thoughtful and careful review of our current regulatory regime by sunseting all regulations subject to legislative review every five years, providing an opportunity for the representatives of all Kansans to more carefully consider the purpose and the effects of rules that have been in the books for many years.

In this light, we believe SB 244 is a critical step to address the red tape that is stifling productivity and creating barriers to economic opportunity for workers, business and families in the sunflower state.

It is essential to point out that researchers at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, have showed that as of 2019, the Kansas Administrative Regulations code contains 70,969 restrictions and 3.2 million words.¹ Of those thousands and thousands of regulatory barriers, we believe there is room for improvement by removing outdated or ineffective regulations.

At the same time, is important to note the distinction between regulations that support a legitimate government function and red tape, which are rules that do not serve the public interest because their cost outweighs their benefits.

¹ James Broughel, "A Snapshot of Kansas Regulation in 2019" Mercatus Center at George Mason University, April 2019.

We believe the successful passage of this legislation can open a path to significantly reduce red tape and compliance costs by allowing both regulators and the regulated community to focus on legitimate rules that protect the public.

Periodically reviewing any harmful and unnecessary rules is responsible public policy. Regulations that are in the public interest would continue to be renewed and improved because it is in the public interest to do so.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and we look forward to working together to achieve these sensible reforms that will boost productivity and open economic opportunities for all residents of Kansas.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Patton

Deputy State Director

Americans for Prosperity-Kansas