



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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April 17, 2018

The Honorable Ron Ryckman
Speaker of the House
368-W Capitol Building,
Topeka, Kansas 66612

The Honorable Susan Wagle
President of the Senate
333-E Capitol Building,
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Speaker Ryckman,

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of over 80 technology companies that promotes the growth of the innovation economy. TechNet's diverse membership includes dynamic startups to the most iconic companies on the planet and represents more than two and a half million employees in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, the sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, biotechnology, venture capital, and finance. TechNet is committed to advancing public policies and private sector initiatives that make the U.S. the most innovative country in the world.

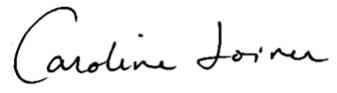
On behalf of our members, we strongly oppose amendments to HB 2481 that would create a license to discriminate for taxpayer funded child placement agencies to refuse to place children with LGBTQ foster or adoptive parents or single parents.

States across the country have rejected similar legislation because they have seen that discriminatory legislation can have dire consequences on economic development and business competitiveness. Discriminatory legislation would hamper the state's ability to attract, recruit and retain business and top talent, drive declines in the state's travel & tourism industry, weaken the states to attract next-generation entrepreneurs and innovators, and make Kansas less competitive for the relocation or expansion of both large and small businesses.

We believe everyone should be treated with dignity and respect, and we are proud of our companies' track records on creating diverse workforces and inclusive work environments. We respectfully urge you to oppose legislation that would legalize discrimination and undermine our ability to continue to invest and grow in Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Joiner". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Caroline Joiner
Executive Director