

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas
Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 2810
House Committee on Insurance
March 6, 2024

Chairman Sutton and Members of the Committee:

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2810, which if enacted would add Kansas to the majority of states that have adopted the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Model Act.

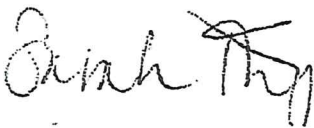
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) is a locally operated mutual insurance company with more than 1,700 Kansas-based employees. We serve approximately 930,000 Kansans in 103 Kansas counties. BCBSKS maintains offices in 11 communities around the state, with corporate headquarters in Topeka, and we currently hold a seat on the Kansas Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Board of Directors.

In 2017 the NAIC, prompted by changes in the life and health insurance marketplace and a series of insurer insolvencies, proposed the Model Act to modernize life and health insurance guaranty associations and help ensure that consumers can continue to have their coverage protected in the event their insurer becomes insolvent. According to the NAIC, as of November 2023, 40 states have adopted the Model Act.¹

HB 2810 would codify these much-needed updates to the Kansas Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act, which has not seen any significant amendments in over a decade. As stated in K.S.A. 40-3002, the purpose of the Act is to protect consumers from harms caused by the impairment or insolvency of their insurer. We believe HB 2810 is necessary to continue to fulfill that promise to consumers, and we would encourage the committee to recommend the bill favorably for passage.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Sarah Fertig
Director of Government Relations
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

¹ <https://content.naic.org/sites/default/files/government-affairs-brief-life-health-guaranty-association-model.pdf>.