



Wichita Independent Business Association

THE VOICE OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

February 13, 2013

**Written Testimony before the Senate Public Health Committee
SB 163**

By Tim Witsman, President

Chairman Pilcher-Cook and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on SB 163. The Wichita Independent Business Association (WIBA) has represented Kansas businesses for 81 years. WIBA membership ranges from the individual sole proprietor operating a home-based business to large corporations with thousands of employees. WIBA has almost 700 member businesses from Wichita and throughout the state and represents more than 250 industries.

In a recent WIBA survey, members indicated that their top concerns remain business regulations/mandates and the cost of health insurance. Health insurance costs continue to be a large cost driver for employers. This bill will help in reducing costs to small businesses and make health insurance more affordable.

Health insurance is a benefit that small businesses want to provide to their employees. In recent years, health insurance costs for businesses have increased substantially and with the passage of federal health reform, health insurance costs will increase even more. Small businesses are looking for affordable health insurance options. The passage of SB 163 would help with costs and provide more options for health insurance in the state.

We look forward to working with the members of this committee and other stakeholders on the positive impact this bill will have on small businesses in Kansas.