

Testimony before House Insurance Committee

Opponent: HB 2103

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Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Taylor Schettler and I am the Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to HB 2103, which would mandate insurance coverage for amino acid-based elemental formula.

In November, when the Chamber conducted our annual Business Leaders Poll, business leaders responded that the number one issue affecting the profitability of their business was managing soaring health care costs. Kansas business owners tell us that they want to provide health insurance and remain competitive, but the cost is already too high.

While many of you may feel sympathy for the advocates of these mandates, our concern is that Kansas employers struggle to afford basic healthcare coverage for their employees. Studies show that mandates increase the cost of health care and drive up premium price. Increasing premium price makes health care less affordable and results in a growing number of uninsured. In a recent study, the Pacific Research Institute found that if the cost of insurance premiums rises by 1 percent, the number of uninsured people increases by 0.5 percent. This illustrates the detrimental impact of even minor increases in premium price on the uninsured population.

Most everyone recognizes that the real crisis in health care is the rising cost of health insurance. We ask that the debate today be focused on solving this problem, not adding to it by adding more mandates that drive up the overall cost of healthcare.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments today.



"...to continually strive to improve the economic climate for the benefit of every business and citizen and to safeguard our system of free, competitive enterprise".