



**House Committee on Insurance
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2054
Presented by Kristi Brown, Sr. Director of Government Affairs**

Monday, January 28, 2019

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kristi Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 2054.

This bill, along with several other bills coming before your committee this week, makes simple but significant changes to statute that will allow the Kansas Chamber and many other Associations across the State, to offer health plans to its members most, of whom are small employers and have been struggling to provide their employees with high quality, affordable healthcare.

Under current law, associations are allowed to sell group plans but if any of their participating members employ fewer than 50 people, and over 80% of the Kansas Chamber's members do, the entire plan must be rated at the small group rate. The small group rate is generally higher than rates which could be attained if the various members were rated according to the overall number of the combined group. Associations with small business members are, thus, precluded from offering any of their members access to more affordable health plans. House Bill 2054, and its accompanying bills will address this problem.

As the bills come before your committee this week, you will be hearing more from us at the Chamber. Utilizing the new changes that have been made on the federal level will truly be a game changer for businesses and their employees across the state of Kansas.

We thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB2054 and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.