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**Testimony before the House Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
Written Only In Support of SB32**

Provided by Christy Hopkins, Legislative Committee Member
western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance

Thank you, Chairman Vickrey and members of the committee for allowing this testimony on behalf of the western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance. We support SB32 because access to health care is vital to rural Kansas.

Each fall the membership of the western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (WKREDA) develop a legislative position paper that reflects our concerns and solutions for matters that impact rural development. WKREDA acknowledges the importance of health care for rural communities.

Our 2019 statement includes acknowledgement that financial stress on rural hospitals impacts the quality of care in rural Kansas. Access to local health care is also an important economic development recruitment question that companies consider when determining where to locate or expand. We believe SB 32 will improve health care in rural Kansas as it expands options for health insurance.

WKREDA is a coalition of people in 55 western Kansas counties who've decided to pool their resources, both human and financial, to work together for the common good of western Kansas. Formed as a grassroots organization in 1994 WKREDA's members maintain a collaborative affiliation to achieve our individual and collective rural development goals.

For More Information:

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