

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael O'Donnell at 1:34am on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 118-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook – Excused

Committee staff present:

Iraida Orr, Legislative Research Department

Randi Walters, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Whitney Howard, Legislative Research Department

Renae Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Gary Robbins, Executive Director, Kansas Optometric Association

William W. Sneed, Legislative Counsel, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)

Larrie Ann Brown, Consumer Health Alliance

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Hearing on: HB2281 — Enforcement of vision care services act.**

Chairperson O'Donnell opened the hearing on **HB2281**. Renae Jefferies, staff revisor, reviewed the bill.

Gary Robbins, Kansas Optometric Association, testified in support of **HB2281**. Mr. Robbins stated that **HB2281** was drafted to allow the Insurance Commissioner the ability to develop rules and regulations regarding the Vision Care Services Act. Mr. Robbins stated he also had a balloon amendment and reviewed the changes. Mr. Robbins responded to questions from committee members. ([Attachment 1](#)) ([Attachment 2](#))

William Sneed, AHIP, testified in opposition of **HB2281**. Mr. Sneed stated that they don't have any problem with the committee passing the underlying bill in its original form, but they do have a problem with the amendment. Mr. Sneed stated that they would urge the committee to disregard the amendment and simply move forward on the original premise that adds the language that would provide the Insurance Department the technical language that they need in order to enforce the overall Vision Care Service Act. Mr. Sneed responded to questions from committee members. ([Attachment 3](#))

Larrie Ann Brown, Consumer Health Alliance, testified in opposition of **HB2281**. Ms. Brown stated that they have some concerns with possible unintended consequences that are involved with the balloon amendment. She stated that they would like to continue to work with the optometrists, the Attorney General's office, and the Insurance Department to see if there is some sort of resolution that can be agreed to. Ms. Brown stated that the discount card act wasn't mentioned last year in the Vision Care Services Act, so bringing the discount card act into this balloon amendment, has caused them some concern. ([Attachment 4](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Public Health and Welfare at 1:34am on Tuesday, March 10, 2015,  
118-N of the Capitol.

After all questions from the committee were addressed, Chairperson O'Donnell closed the hearing on **HB2281**.

The committee was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2015.