



The Voice of Small Business®

Testimony in Support of HB2124
Mr. Daniel Murray: Kansas State Director
National Federation of Independent Business
House Commerce Committee
Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Good afternoon Chairman KleeB and members of the Committee. I am pleased to be here on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). The NFIB is the state's leading small business advocacy organization representing nearly 4,000 small business owners across Kansas.

NFIB supports HB2124, which amends several provisions in the Kansas Employment Security Act, because we believe the bill will promote the integrity of the fund, ensuring benefits are available for deserving claimants. Further the bill will reduce the unemployment tax burden on new small businesses.

Below are the key reasons NFIB/Kansas supports the bill:

1. Further clarifies that holiday pay should be considered in unemployment benefit claims;
2. Bases the number of weeks of benefits on the level of unemployment in Kansas;
3. Further defines misconduct, which provides clarity to employer, claimant and DoL;
4. Further defines absence & lateness in misconduct terminations; and
5. Establishes a new, lower rate for new small businesses

As we stated in testimony on HB2105, small businesses support reforms, like those proposed in HB2124, because we believe they will ensure fund stability, yielding two primary outcomes: 1) the tax burden on small businesses will be lessened; and 2) the limited resources in the fund will be directed to claimants whose claims meet the fundamental purpose of the UI system.

NFIB believes that HB2124 is a small effort to align limited resources with true needs. Again, NFIB supports HB2124 and urge its passage.

Small Business Isn't Small

Collectively, small business isn't small. It represents over 97 percent of all employer firms and provides employment to 54.7% of the non-farm private work force in Kansas. It pays 44 percent of total U.S. private payroll. In the past fifteen years, it has annually generated 64% of net new jobs. It generates more than 50% of the gross domestic product. It possesses half of the business wealth in the U.S.

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Development Committee

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Attachment #: 3