



**THE KANSAS
CHAMBER**

UNITED FOR BUSINESS

835 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612
785.357.6321

**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee
Testimony in Support of HB 2617 – Concerning Workers Compensation
Presented by Reynaldo Mesa, Senior Government Affairs Director**

Monday, February 15, 2016

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Chamber, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of HB 2617, concerning the workers compensation act, regarding the medical administrator and the electronic filing for administrative hearings.

The Kansas Chamber supports the request by the Kansas Department of Labor concerning the requirement in having to maintain a medical administrator on staff. We believe that by allowing the director of workers compensation to either appoint or contract with a medical administrator gives them the flexibility that they seek. Typically, a medical administrator manages the systems and process that are in place and in this case we are talking about a person who will help prepare a medical fee schedule, help develop a utilization review program, collect and analyze data on the cost for health care services to employees and carry out other duties as the director or secretary sees fit. We agree with the Kansas Department of Labor, that these responsibilities don't necessarily have to be conducted by a staff person only, but rather someone who can be retained on a part-time basis through contracted services.

We also support the department's request, that whenever there's a dispute between the employer, worker, the Kansas workers compensation fund, or the insurance carrier, they must file their application electronically. This can expedite the process in a timely manner and is beneficial for tracking purposes. And, for whatever reason if the electronic filing system is inaccessible on the last day for filing, extending the deadline for all involved certainly makes sense. We all know from time to time, computers do go down or malfunction due to unforeseen situations.

I thank you for time and for allowing me to testify on behalf of the Kansas Chamber. Respectfully, we ask for your support for HB 2617.

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"...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".