



**Written Testimony in Opposition to HB2319
Before House Health & Human Services Committee**

**Mr. Daniel Murray, Kansas State Director
National Federation of Independent Business**

Thursday, March 19, 2015

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB2319. NFIB is the state's leading small business organization representing small and independent businesses. A non-profit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its over 4,200 members in Kansas.

The NFIB opposes HB2319, which removes from the hands of the legislature the responsibility of authorizing the expansion of Medicaid, and subsequently authorizes the expansion of eligibility to those with an income equal to or less than 138% of the federal poverty line.

First, our members believe that the complex issue of Medicaid expansion ought to require the consent and approval of the legislature, the body designed by our framers to most closely represent the interests of the taxpayers. This bill repeals that requirement and places that responsibility in the hands of one person.

Second, our members are concerned that extending coverage will increase costs to state taxpayers over time. Medicaid is one of the top line items of the Kansas state budget, and we are already struggling with financing current Medicaid populations. While we understand this bill calls for a "budget-neutral managed care program," NFIB members are worried that the state, through whatever funding mechanism, cannot afford the eventual 10% cost of expansion for the "newly eligible" population. Further, with Washington facing more than \$18 trillion in debt, there's concern in the small-business community that Washington won't keep its end of the bargain, leaving state job creators and taxpayers to pick up the cost.

Again, HB2319 removes the legislature from the decision-making process in this critically complex and important endeavor and expands the size and scope of government in a way that our members don't believe is sustainable. We respectfully ask that you oppose this bill.