

TO: The Honorable Mary Pilcher-Cook, Chair
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

FROM: William W. Sneed, Legislative Counsel
America's Health Insurance Plans

SUBJECT: H.B. 2281

DATE: March 10, 2015

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee: My name is Bill Sneed and I am Legislative Counsel for America's Health Insurance Plans ("AHIP"). AHIP is the national trade association representing the health insurance industry. AHIP members provide health and supplemental benefits to more than 200 million Americans through employer-sponsored coverage, the individual and small group insurance markets, and public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. Members offer a broad range of health insurance products in the commercial marketplace and have also demonstrated a strong commitment to participation in public programs throughout the country. AHIP is here today to oppose the proposed amendment requested by the Kansas Insurance Department.

We did not oppose H.B. 2281 in the House. We viewed the bill as a refinement of a bill passed last year by the Kansas Legislature.

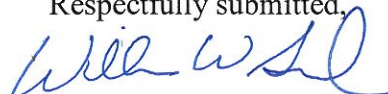
The proposed amendment was crafted by the Kansas Insurance Department. We understand that on Friday a meeting was held on the issue the amendment is attempting to address. My client was not informed of this meeting, and in fact, first saw the amendment at 10:00 a.m. today.

This amendment is far-reaching. It may be good or it may be bad. However, such work should be done collaboratively and not hurriedly thrown together.

Thus, my client respectfully requests that the Committee reject the proposed amendment and pass H.B. 2218 in its original form. If fine-tuning the regulatory process is truly needed by the Kansas Insurance Department, it should be discussed extensively by all parties over the summer and fall. Once that is done, a more thoroughly debated proposal can be brought to the 2016 Legislature.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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