



TO: House Commerce Committee

FROM: Steven Graham
Spirit AeroSystems

RE: HOUSE BILL 2059

DATE: January 30, 2017

Dear Committee Members:

In 2011 the Kansas Legislature substantially amended the Kansas Workers Compensation Act. These numerous amendments became effective May 15, 2011. An issue subject to negotiation was the transition from the use of the *AMA Guides for Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, 4th Edition*, to the *AMA Guides, 6th Edition*, for the purpose of finding the extent of permanent impairment following a work-related accident. In 2014 it was determined the use of the *6th Edition* would become applicable for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2015.

As the Committee on Commerce considers House Bill 2059, which would amend K.S.A. 44-510d to extinguish use of the *6th Edition of the AMA Guides* and revert to the *4th Edition*, Spirit AeroSystems would like to be on record opposing this change.

All participants to the Workers Compensation system accepted the transition from the *AMA Guides, 4th Edition*, to the *6th Edition*, which recognizes modern advances in the evaluation of physical impairment and advances in treatment options available through modern medicine.

Treatments for injuries are based on modern-day standards, and our laws should likewise be based on standards that recognize the full span of medical treatments available to diagnose and address injuries. Reverting to medical standards more than two decades old would move us in the wrong direction.

The transition from the *4th Edition* to the *6th Edition* was subject to public discussion and debate. Currently, more than 20 states and the Federal government use the *6th Edition* guides. Any transition to a different edition should only be done based on data that accounts for further advances in modern medicine. Remaining with *6th Edition* standards provides a more objective and predictable approach for businesses and medical professionals who strive to provide world-class medical care to injured workers.

Thank you for your consideration.

