



January 31, 2017
House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee
HB 2059

Chairman Mason, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2059. My name is Kevin McFarland. I work for LeadingAge Kansas – an association that represents over 150 not-for-profit aging services providers in Kansas. Our members serve over 20,000 Senior Kansans every day and employ over 15,000 Kansas workers. I am the President/CEO of our group-funded workers' compensation pool, KING that has been in operation for 27 years. I am also the President of the Kansas Self-Insurers Association Board of Directors representing individual self-funded and group-funded workers' compensation programs. Today I am here to urge you to vote "no" on HB 2059.

As part of the workers' compensation reforms passed in 2011 and 2013 we support the use of the 6th edition of the AMA Guide. It is the most current edition and is reflective of modern practices and advances in medicine.

The 6th edition also allows for rating impairment based on an individual's treatment outcome, not a rating based on the injury as prescribed in the 4th edition.

Since the use of the AMA 6th edition took effect January 1, 2015 the sample size of its impact is still relatively small.

Finally, several states and our federal government utilize the AMA 6th edition in determining impairment rating.

Staying the course with the AMA Guide 6th edition in workers' compensation keeps Kansas current and reflects modern advances in medicine and an individual's treatment outcome.

Thank you for your consideration.