



January 31, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our 1,600 members, thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony in opposition to H.B. 2059.

H.B. 2059 would revert Kansas back to the American Medical Association (AMA) Guides for Evaluation of Permanent Impairment Volume 4. The Chamber opposes this legislation because it is unnecessary and would result in increased costs for worker's compensation insurance.

Kansas, like many other states and the federal government, moved from AMA Volume 4 to Volume 6 based on sound reasoning. Advances in medical technology and treatment over the last twenty years requires an updated set of guidelines when determining the effects of workplace injuries. It is irresponsible to the state's business community and carriers of worker's compensation insurance not to adjust the guidelines as new treatments and technologies lessen the impact injuries.

The Chamber supports a worker's compensation system that is fair to the employed, as well as the employer. The goal of Kansas's work comp system should be to properly and fairly compensate worker's for injuries and lost work and earning ability based on sound science. The Chamber believes that AMA Volume 6 accomplishes this objective.

We respectfully request that you reject H.B. 2059.

Very truly yours,

Jason Watkins