



Written Testimony in Opposition to HB2461
Mr. Daniel Murray
Kansas State Director, National Federation of Independent Business
House Committee on Commerce, Labor & Economic Development
Wednesday, February 14, 2018

I am pleased to submit written testimony in opposition to HB2461 on behalf of NFIB Kansas. NFIB Kansas is the leading small business organization in Kansas representing small and independent businesses. A non-profit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB Kansas represents the consensus views of its over 4,400 members in the state.

House Bill 2461 is a needless bill that will only serve to increase litigation costs for small business owners and line the pockets of trial attorneys. The bill would allow employees using private attorneys to sue their employers for unpaid wages to collect costs and attorney fees if they are awarded judgement.

This bill is not needed. The Kansas Department of labor already protects and defends employees in such claims at no cost to the employee. Furthermore, there is no provision in the bill to allow for the employer to collect costs and attorney fees if they are successful in defending against a baseless claim. This inequity clearly tilts the game in favor of trial attorneys who are trolling for lawsuits.

This legislation merely encourages additional litigation against small business owners. It will invite trial attorneys to needlessly pursue claims, fill the courts with superfluous litigation, and increase the cost of doing business in Kansas. Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and we urge you to vote NO HB2461.