

Testimony
Senate Bill 110
House Insurance Committee
March 14, 2017
Amanda Mc Diffett, Director of Benefits
Kansas State University

Chairman Vickrey and members of the Committee:

My name is Amanda McDiffett and I represent Kansas State University. I am the Director of Benefits in the Division of Human Capital Services. I am submitting written testimony in support of Senate Bill 110 to allow the Kansas Board of Regents to provide health insurance to employees when the state health care benefits program (State Employee Health Plan) does not meet federal requirements.

Kansas State University, as well as several of the State Universities, currently have a group of employees that this particular legislation would impact directly. The Department of State requires individuals on J Visas to have a specific level of medical insurance coverage. In 2017, the Department of State requirements includes a deductible not to exceed \$500 per accident or illness. The 2017 health insurance options through the State Employee Health Plan (SEHP) do not meet this \$500 maximum. The lowest deductible of the two SEHP options is \$1,000. There are approximately 55 employees impacted at K-State. These employees are on J1 and J2 Visas and their positions could include professors, post docs or others in the research area.

While it is not the employer's responsibility to provide health insurance that meets the Department of State's requirements for medical insurance, I feel it is our responsibility to assist employees in obtaining the coverage they need to meet these requirements. If the Kansas Board of Regents were able to create a health plan to meet the needs of these individuals, it would provide support to these employees, many of whom are not familiar with insurance within the United States. It would be less cumbersome on both the employee and the employer who is providing guidance, assistance and support to these employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support towards this proposed legislation.