

Testimony in opposition to HB 2056
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Chairman Vickrey and members of the Committee:

The American Cancer Society Action Network (ACS CAN) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 2056. ACS CAN, the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society, supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. As the nation's leading advocate for public policies that are helping to defeat cancer, ACS CAN ensures that cancer patients, survivors, and their families have a voice in public policy matters at all levels of government. Access to quality health coverage directly affects people's ability to prevent, detect, and survive cancer. **The sad reality is that too much cancer death and suffering is attributable to gaps in our health care system.**

We have opposed previous federal initiatives to encourage the growth of Association Health Plans because these plans promote the growth of products that do not provide comprehensive coverage, could damage the non-AHP individual and small group markets, and inadequately address issues of plan solvency and regulatory oversight, especially considering the long record of AHP fraud and solvency problems.

Providing Kansans access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage is critical in the fight against cancer. ACS CAN opposes legislation to expand AHPs because it could segment the insurance market, drive up premiums and make it harder for cancer patients and survivors to find health insurance. ACS CAN supports state legislation to require AHPs to follow all coverage requirements and patient protections in ACA-compliant plans.

ACS CAN encourages lawmakers to protect access to comprehensive health care coverage by opposing HB 2056 and other legislation to expand the growth of AHPs that do not follow all coverage requirements and patient protections in ACA-compliant plans.