



WICHITA **INDEPENDENT BUSINESS** ASSOCIATION

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Wednesday, January 30, 2109

Before the House Insurance Committee

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2056

By Alicia Holloway, President, WIBA

Chairman Vickery and members of the Committee:

The Wichita Independent Business Association represents hundreds of independent (not publicly held) businesses in Wichita and across the state. The majority of our members are small businesses, which have 50 and under employees. We support HB 2056 and ability to establish Association Health Plans in the state of Kansas.

Under new rules approved by President Trump, Association Health Plans are now allowed under the Affordable Care Act. To take advantage of these new rules, Kansas laws must be changed to allow for these types of groups. We support HB 2056, the exemption of Association Health Plans from current small employer laws. We believe that this change, along with others, will give associations like WIBA, the flexibility to offer these types of plans as members benefits.

One of the top expenses for WIBA members and small business owners in the state is health care. This is a huge cost driver, especially for small businesses. Allowing association health plans in the state will help reduce the cost of health insurance to thousands of small business owners in the state and will help reduce the number of uninsured.

WIBA fully supports the changes outlined in HB 2056 and additional changes needed to make Association Health Plans a reality in Kansas and reduce the cost of health care to our members.

Thank you for your time and please contact me with any questions you may have.