



To: House Insurance Committee

From: Dwight Meyer, president, Kansas Soybean Association (KSA)

Subject: KSA Support for S. B. 32

Date: March 6, 2019

Chairman Vickery and members of the House Insurance Committee:

The Kansas Soybean Association (KSA), representing Kansas soybean farmers on legislative and regulatory issues at the state and national level, respectfully requests you vote affirmatively for S.B. 32 in the House Insurance Committee and recommend it favorably for passage.

Rapidly escalating health care costs for Kansas soybean producers in recent years have contributed mightily to declining net farm incomes in the state. One such producer has indicated his healthcare premiums have tripled since 2010. His wife is in contact with many farm families and has discovered that with a significant number of them health care costs have become unaffordable.

S.B. 32 would allow the Kansas Farm Bureau, if exempted from the jurisdiction of the Kansas Insurance Commissioner, to partner with a provider to offer health care benefits that would provide significant health insurance savings for many farm families.

The estimated sixteen percent of the Kansas population that is currently uninsured or is forced to purchase insurance on the open market would benefit immeasurably from S.B. 32.

Again, the Kansas Soybean Association asks you to vote yes on S.B. 32 and recommend it favorably for passage.