



Arthritis Foundation
1900 W. 75th St, Ste 200
Prairie Village, KS 66208

February 28, 2019

The Honorable Jene Vickrey
House Insurance Committee
300 SW Tenth Street Room 212-N
Topeka KS 66612

RE: SB 32 – Oppose

Dear Chairman Vickrey and members of the House Insurance Committee:

The Arthritis Foundation urges you to oppose SB 32, which would bring a self-funded, insurance-like health benefit plan that would be exempt from state insurance regulations. This type of plan would expose consumers to medical and financial harm, especially those who live with pre-existing conditions (like arthritis).

Additionally, Senate Bill 32 would exempt these insurance-like plans from oversight by the State Department of Insurance, which would leave Kansas consumers without an important voice to protect their interest as it relates to financial oversight. Kansans with arthritis would be especially vulnerable as this plan is not required to cover pre-existing conditions, which means they could charge arthritis patients more for coverage or deny them altogether.

We are proud to advocate on behalf of the over 497,000 men, women, and children with arthritis in Kansas – the number one cause of disability in the U.S. – and ask for you to oppose SB 32. Please contact me at mguadalupe@arthritis.org or (773-304-7290) with any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Guadalupe". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray rectangular background.

Michele Guadalupe, MPH
Advocacy Alliance Development Director