



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2604

Mr. Daniel Murray
Kansas State Director, National Federation of Independent Business

Testimony in Support of HB2604
Senate Committee on Judiciary
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Madam Chair and members of the committee, **I am pleased to testify on behalf of NFIB Kansas in strong support House Bill 2604 which provides much-needed legal access and reform for small business owners.** NFIB Kansas is the leading small business organization in Kansas representing small and independent businesses. A non-profit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB Kansas represents the consensus views of its nearly 3,600 members in Kansas.

House Bill 2604 would amend the Small Claims Procedure Act to increase the maximum dollar amount for a small claim from \$4,000 to \$10,000, exclusive of interest, costs, and any damages related to worthless checks. The legislature has not updated the small claims threshold since 2004. Thus, we believe this bill represents a reasonable increase to address 20 years of inflation and brings Kansas in-line with the threshold in a growing number of states. Further, HB2604 just makes plain good public policy sense for Main Street.

Small business owners do not have in-house counsel and the vast majority cannot afford to hire lawyers to defend their business interests. Small claims courts provide a simple and affordable route for small businesses to pursue legal redress in low-cost cases. This bill will ensure that more small business owners can access the courts without hiring an attorney and spending their precious and limited resources on costly lawsuits.

In closing, we believe this bill reasonably addresses 20 years of inflation and makes sound policy sense for the backbone of our economy. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today and we urge you to pass out HB2604 favorably.