



Written Testimony in Support of HB2701
Mr. Daniel Murray
Kansas State Director, National Federation of Independent Business

House Committee on Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications
Wednesday, February 14, 2018

I am pleased to submit written testimony in support of HB2701 on behalf of NFIB Kansas. 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 over 4,400 members in the state.

House Bill 2701 takes an important first step in addressing the evolving and challenging task of addressing telecommunications needs in Kansas. Namely, the bill creates the statewide broadband task force charged with studying and identifying ways to expand broadband infrastructure and increase statewide access to broadband services. This goal is not only noble, but essential to ensure small business owners in Kansas have the telecommunication resources to thrive and compete in an international economy.

If passed, HB2701 would authorize NFIB Kansas to appoint one member to this important task force. Our organization, The Voice of Small Business®, is uniquely qualified to provide the true perspective of small businesses' broadband needs in Kansas. In our 75th year of existence, NFIB has over 4,400 members from every industry and sector throughout Kansas. We will tap into our diverse and expansive membership, both rural and urban, to provide Main Street's perspective on broadband challenges and needs.

NFIB Kansas looks forward to working collaboratively with other task force members to make broadband policy recommendations that align with our longstanding mission to "promote and protect the right of small businesses to own, operate and grow their businesses."

Again, thank you for your consideration of our comments, and we urge you to vote HB2701 favorably for passage.