

STATE OF KANSAS
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BLAINE FINCH
59TH DISTRICT

March 13, 2018

Testimony in Support of HB 2774 (Written Only)

Honorable Chairman Hawkins, Vice-Chair Concannon, Ranking Member Murnan and the Honorable Members of the House Health & Human Services Committee:

I am pleased to offer testimony in support of HB 2774. I was contacted by Angie Logan from the Mid-America Nutrition Program in Ottawa. Her group is the contractor that provides meals on wheels services for our area. As the committee is well aware, the ever-increasing costs of health care and coverage for employees affects many employers in Kansas. Our meals on wheels providers and area agencies on aging are no exception.

However, unlike many private employers, these groups serve a vital function on behalf of our state government to provide for and assist those elderly Kansans who need it. In a sense they are the delivery arm of services the state has already determined to be necessary. Because of this, they have asked to allow their employees to consider making use of the state employee health plan ("SEHP"). This would allow them a greater measure of cost containment, help ensure their continued existence, and free up dollars for delivery of even more services to our elderly population.

These groups understand they will still face costs to be participants in the SEHP, and given their limited numbers they should not have a negative impact on the rating of the plan or create additional costs for the state as a whole. Ultimately, this produces benefits to those serving our older neighbors, but costs the state relatively little, if anything.

I would ask the committee to favorably consider this request and recommend HB 2774 favorably for passage. The efficiencies to be realized by this measure will accrue to the benefit of our older citizens and those who serve them. Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blaine Finch', written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Blaine Finch