



**Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 29
Presented by Kristi Brown, Sr. Director of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kristi Brown, Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 29.

This bill, along with several other bills coming before your committee, makes simple but significant changes to statute that will allow the Kansas Chamber and many other Associations across the State, to offer health plans to its members most, of whom are small employers and have been struggling to provide their employees with high quality, affordable healthcare.

Under current law, associations are allowed to sell group plans but if any of their participating members employ fewer than 51 people, and over 80% of the Kansas Chamber's members do, the entire plan must be rated at the small group rate. The small group rate is generally higher than rates which could be attained if the various members were rated according to the overall number of the combined group. Associations with small business members are, thus, precluded from offering any of their members access to more affordable health plans. Senate Bill 29, and its accompanying bills will address this problem.

As these bills come before your committee, you will be hearing more from us at the Chamber. Utilizing the new changes that have been made on the federal level will truly be a game changer for businesses and their employees across the state of Kansas.

We thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB29 and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.