



March 25, 2021

Chairman Longbine and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address this critical issue. I am Elizabeth Patton State Director of Americans for Prosperity, Kansas. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping one another.

We look forward to working with the Committee to craft real reforms that expand access to affordable, high-quality health care for all Kansans.

Therefore, on behalf of Americans for Prosperity activists in Kansas, I am pleased and honored to declare our support for S.B.199, a bill that would expand affordable health insurance options for Kansas families by removing needless government barriers to short term limited duration health insurance plans.

Short term renewable health plans are a great option for those in transition between jobs or for the uninsured. You can enroll any time in the coverage you choose to best fit your needs, and the coverage starts the next day. A short term plan is real insurance that's typically 50 to 80 percent less expensive than a traditional insurance policy -- a Toyota Camry for people who don't need and can't afford a Maserati.

Unfortunately, current law in our state does not give our state's consumers the full access to this affordable option that they deserve. S.B.199 would fix that problem, enabling Kansas families to purchase short term coverage that lasts for up to twelve months instead of only six under current law, and it would allow such coverage to be renewed for up to three years. That kind of flexibility can be a real life-saver for people who might otherwise fall between the cracks in today's overpriced and over-regulated health care system.

This reform represents a big step toward what we at AFP call a health care "personal option" (<https://americansforprosperity.org/personal-option/>), a set of smart, sensible reforms that ensure every single one of us has the choice and control we deserve, the access we want, and the affordability we need.

Kansas families and businesses need less government red tape and more affordable health care options. And this legislation is the perfect place to start. We urge a "YES" vote on S.B.199. Thank you again for this opportunity to testify, and for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Patton
State Director
Americans for Prosperity Kansas