

Testimony Re: HB 2069
House Commerce & Economic Development Committee
Presented by Bill Goodlatte on behalf of
Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association

February 14, 2013

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Bill Goodlatte and I am Senior Vice President of Human Resources for the LDF Companies based in Wichita. LDF stands for Larry David Fleming who purchased his first Wendy's franchise directly from Dave Thomas in 1975. Today, LDF operates 20 Wendy's restaurants, distributes beer, wine and spirits and employs over 700 people throughout the State of Kansas.

Thank you for allowing me to explain why LDF and KRHA urge the Kansas Legislature to pass HB 2069, preempting local municipalities from enacting harmful paid leave mandates on businesses.

When individual towns and cities enact these kinds of laws, they drive businesses out. Every new mandate on business comes at a cost. If businesses are required to provide things like paid leave, something else has to give. Things like fewer jobs, cuts in wages and reductions in benefits.

When it comes to managing time off and other work place issues, employers working in cooperation with employees is more productive than one size fits all government mandates. Businesses that care about their employees will find themselves having to adjust their workforce structure to accommodate inflexible policies, and the employees themselves may well be the ones who are hurt the most!

The economy remains very unstable and many business owners continue to be concerned about the economic outlook in the foreseeable future. Adding a costly mandate to their already heavy regulatory burden will have a chilling effect on their ability to maintain their businesses and the jobs they provide.

Free healthcare for everyone sounded like a good idea to many people. But today we know that it will eliminate jobs, cut wages and reduce benefits. The unintended consequences of government mandates are not always easy to predict. But it is not hard to predict that when costs increase, something has to give.

I urge you to vote yes to pass HB 2069. Please help keep Kansas friendly to business!

Thank you,



Bill Goodlatte



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