



**Testimony on HB 2059
Terry Forsyth, President
Working Kansas Alliance**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of the Working Kansas Alliance, a group of union and non-union organizations representing Kansas workers and their families.

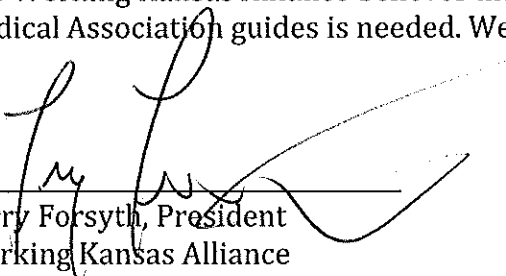
Working Kansas Alliance supports HB 2059. In short we support the bill because the use of the 6th Edition of the American Medical Association guides does not accurately reflect the true nature of an employee's injuries.

One of the biggest issues facing Kansas workers is the deep flaws in the workers compensation system. For the last couple years the Kansas Legislature has made it more and more difficult for Kansas workers who are injured on the job to receive the compensation they deserve.

In 2013 Governor Brownback signed into law SB 187. SB 187 modified several sections of the Kansas Workers Compensation Act, and moved the workers compensation impairment guidelines from the 4th edition of the American Medical Association guides (which have been used since 1996) to the 6th edition of the American Medical Association guides. When SB 187 was pushed through the Legislature in 2013, proponents passed it on the terms that it was merely a "scientific update" to the American Medical Association's standards, and that it will benefit workers and businesses alike. Instead what we have seen is that the use of the 6th edition of the American Medical Association guides does not reflect the extent of employees injuries and has had drastic negative effects for Kansas workers.

Returning to the 4th edition of the American Medical Association guides would benefit workers and working families. The use of the 4th of the American Medical Association guides is fairer for employees and employers alike. And finally, the use of the 4th edition of the American Medical Association guides more appropriately reflects the true nature of employee's injuries.

The changes outlined in HB 2059 are drastically needed to protect Kansas workers. The Working Kansas Alliance believes that the use of the 4th edition of the American Medical Association guides is needed. We support HB 2059.


Terry Forsyth, President
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