



TO: HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

FROM: TOM BROWN
KANSAS EASTERN REGION INSURANCE TRUST (KERIT)

RE: HB 2059

DATE: JANUARY 24, 2017

Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB 2059.

My name is Tom Brown. I am the Mayor of McPherson Kansas, and am writing today on behalf of the Kansas Eastern Region Insurance Trust (KERIT) as immediate past Chairman of the Board of Trustees. KERIT is a group-funded workers compensation pool which represents 18 cities, counties and taxing districts in Kansas. KERIT has been in operation for over 30 years and its members employ over 4,800 workers.

Use of the AMA 6th edition was a part of workers compensation reform during the 2013 legislative session after numerous hearings and discussions. It went into effect January 1, 2015 and been in place for only two years, so the impact of the change has not been referenced in rate making data.

The AMA 6th edition is used by over 20 states and the Federal government in assessing workers compensation disability ratings. It represents the current standard for evaluating permanent impairment using more recent advances in medical procedures. The 6th edition was written by physicians, impartial to the workers compensation system, with the intent of providing fair and accurate impairment ratings.

On behalf of KERIT, I urge you to vote "no" on advancing HB 2059.

Thank you to the Committee for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas A. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas A. Brown
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